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the old  
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# Pandas smile for city's zoo goers

Eight pandas from Sichuan Province will spend the next six months in Beijing as part of an Olympic visit, which was scheduled long before the quake struck.

Zoo staff said they would set up a donation box at the panda exhibit to collect money for the Wolong reserve, hometown of all pandas and only 30 kilometers from the epicenter of the powerful quake.

The pandas seemed back to normal, and they had taken a liking to the fresh bamboo zoo workers sourced from Henan Province, staff said.

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Xinhua Photo



Photo provided by Nordic Ways

## World's skiers meet on Changbai

The first ever summer ski competition in Asia took place last Saturday on Changbai Mountain in Jilin Province. About 200 skiers from 15 countries made the downhill trip.

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Six days since  
the plastic  
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every man  
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Learn Tai-chi  
in English  
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# A week into the bag ban

By Gan Tian

The new ban on free plastic bags took effect on Saturday. After a week in implementation, the capital found many positive effects in the new regulations, though shoppers frequently met with difficulty.

## Supermarkets

Last Saturday was International Children's Day, a day on which most supermarkets experienced rush hours. However, officials said the ban worked well in most markets.

Some local supermarkets, such as Tian Ke Long and Jing Ke Long, offered priced plastic bags, but few customers purchased them. Many customers chose to carry products by hand. "It was so unexpected, but it is a good way to protect the environment," Huang Li, a customer

said. Many old people carried cloth bags. Other markets saw a rise in their sales of "environmental protection bags."

The Wal-Mart in Wanda Plaza commonly used four packs of medium-sized plastic bags and two packs of large ones from 8 to 11 am, but last Saturday it sold only 14 medium-sized plastic bags and large ones. In many supermarkets and department stores, all counters have marked prices for small to large size plastic bags. There were three prices: two, three and four yuan.

## Bookstores

Plastic bags vanished from local bookstores. In the Xinhua Bookstore in Xiaozhuang, one in five customers chose to purchase bags, though the store did offer free rope to tie up books the way they did decades ago.

However, Beijing Book Wholesale Store's owners said they would not begin selling plastic bags, and would continue to offer bags for free.

## Shopping malls

Many fashion stores changed their plastic bags to natural fiber bags. Zhongyou Shopping Center, Shin Kong Plaza and Golden Source Shopping Mall changed to free paper bags. SOGO Shopping Center, Guiyou and Sitech Shopping Center offered natural fiber and environmental protection bags for difference prices.

## Vegetable markets

Some local vegetable markets in small districts had difficulty in banning the free plastic bags. In Dingfuzhuang's vegetable market, many customers were still able to obtain bags for

free. "You can't expect someone to pay 5 jiao for vegetables and 3 jiao for a plastic bag," a vendor said. Some vendors received the ban notice, but continued to distribute free bags.

## Restaurants

Famous fast food restaurant KFC continued to distribute plastic bags. According to staff members, the plastic bags KFC offered were recycled, and were not covered in the ban. However, the Beijing Commerce Bureau's ban did not say that recycled bags were exempt from the ban.

McDonald's adopted paper bags years ago, and has now adopted paper trays for drinks instead of plastic bags.

Jindingxuan, a Guangdong restaurant, offered 5-jiao plastic bags upon customers' requests.

## Tickets released for China Open

By Vinna Huang

China Open officials announced tickets for the event will go on sale today. The 5th China Open Tennis Championship tournament is scheduled to begin September 20.

Tickets are currently available only to Chinese nationals. The Organization Committee said it will donate 10 yuan to the China Youth Development Foundation for each ticket sold. The donations will be used to rebuild elementary school classrooms in quake-hit Wenchuan, Sichuan Province.

Aside from ordinary individual tickets, sponsors said this year there will be an additional thousand cheaper seat tickets which will not be limited by identities.

## Brief news

### Heavy rains force evacuations in south

Guangdong Province has been pounded by heavy rains the last two days, inundating fields, damaging roads and forcing evacuations.

According to the provincial hydrological bureau, 76 of the approximately 140 hydrological stations across the province recorded daily maximum rainfall above 50 millimeters, among which 10 recorded more than 100 millimeters.

### NAO finds violations in land sales

More than 70 percent of net proceeds from land sales in 11 cities including Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, or 186.41 billion yuan, were not included, as stipulated, in the budgets of local governments, the country's audit authority said in a report released Wednesday.

The finding was among several violations discovered in an audit campaign launched by the National Audit Office (NAO) in 2007 to investigate land sales in 11 cities from 2004 to 2006.

The government stipulated that land users have to pay fees to local governments, as the country's land is state-owned.

### Guangdong officials under tighter scrutiny

Residents in Guangdong Province will soon have a much greater say in the evaluation of their officials' performances.

According to the final draft of a new guideline which will take effect June 12, the administrative performance of city-level government officials and above will be subject to an annual assessment by grassroots Party representatives, deputies to the city-level people's congress and members of the city-level political consultative conference.

Evaluations will come from more than 200 sources.

Officials who are given a satisfactory rating of 90 percent will be considered excellent, those approved by one-third of the evaluators will be considered competent and those who dissatisfy 50 percent of the evaluators marked as incompetent.

(By Han Manman)

## Red dots for companies with black marks

By Bai Jingnan

The Beijing Trade and Industry Bureau is developing a Beijing "Map of Economic Insecurities." The map would indicate which companies in fields such as health care and forestry were delinquent in their responsibilities to the public.

The bureau said that some people have founded dubious publicly-invested companies to secretly siphon off funds for private use.

Though many of the tricks utilized by such companies are not explicitly banned by current government regulations, the bureau said abuse of the current holes could grow into an economic nightmare.

Bureau branches throughout the capital's districts and counties are being required to investigate such "insecure companies" and report their findings to the central bureau, which will use the data to compose a map of Beijing's economic landscape.

A spokesman for the bureau said the map will be distributed in electronic format. Red dots will indicate the location of a delinquent company. Users can click on a red dot to view the company's profile, including information such as its legal representative, address, registered capital and bad records.

The Trade and Industry Bureau intends to use the map to direct related departments to incidents of illegal activities, especially those private companies found to engage in fake capital postings, fake investments and pyramid schemes. Some of these activities are already harshly penalized under current laws such as the Regulations on the activities of Direct Selling Enterprises.

The bureau said it attaches great importance to the new monitoring system, and said that early detection of suspicious or illegal money movement is critical to maintaining economic stability.

## Zongzi up to code



CFP Photo

By Han Manman

The government's quality watchdog said Tuesday its nationwide tests of zongzi — a treat traditionally eaten on the Dragon Boat Festival, which falls on June 8 this year — have shown that 2.6 percent failed to meet national food

quality standards.

The special sample inspection conducted by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) covered 235 types of zongzi produced by 142 companies in 17 areas, including Beijing,

Shanghai, Zhejiang, Sichuan and Henan provinces.

The AQSIQ named and shamed northeastern Changchun Delia Food for excessive copper content and Shanghai Laozhou Food for contamination by diarrhea-causing bacillus bacteria content.

## Bad batch of immunoglobulin kills 6

By Zhang Dongya

Six people died between May 22 to 28 at the No. 2 Hospital affiliated with Nanchang University in the capital of Jiangxi Province. The six had been given doses of human immunoglobulin from batch number 20070514 produced by Jiangxi Boya.

SFDA and the Ministry of Health suspended the sale and use of all human immunoglobulin manufactured by Jiangxi Boya May 29.

General Director of the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) Shao Mingli went to investigate medicine in Jiangxi Province Tuesday. He urged relevant departments to strengthen the supervision of medicine so as to guarantee its safe use.

Initial testing on Monday showed that some of the samples had irregularities, according to the statement issued by SFDA on its Web site.

Jiangxi Boya produced 9,575 doses of human immunoglobulin in batch number 20070514. A total of 3,192 shots were sold and used, and the rest have been recalled and sealed, a spokesman of the general manager's office said Tuesday.

Human immunoglobulin from that batch has not been found in Beijing, and no fatalities related to that drug have been reported.

No details about the victims and the dates of their deaths are available so far, and the business and production of Jiangxi

Boya are normal.

The hospital has been using the drug produced by the company for years without any adverse effects being detected, a hospital spokesman said.

Further investigation is underway by a team of SFDA and local public security authorities.

Thus far, there are no other problematic reports related to the same batch of drugs except for one from No. 2 Hospital affiliated with Nanchang University.

Human immunoglobulin is protein produced in human plasma cells and lymphocytes. It plays an essential role in the body's immune system and is widely used in the treatment of autoimmune diseases such as cancer.



# Eight pandas from the quake-hit Sichuan debut at Beijing Zoo

By Annie Wei

Eight pandas from quake-hit Sichuan Province greeted Beijingers at the Beijing Zoo yesterday for the first time.

The pandas will spend the next six months in Beijing as part of an Olympic visit, which was scheduled long before the quake struck.

The pandas arrived in Beijing on May 25. Within a week, the pandas seemed back to normal. They comfortably sat on the floor, eating bamboo and facing the cameras.

The zoo said it set up a special team to take care of these pandas, including people assigned to play with and comfort them during the day time, and source fresh bamboo in Henan Province.

Wu Daifu, the zoo's main panda-sitter, said each panda gained 2 to 3 kilograms since arriving in Beijing. Each eats 20 kilograms of bamboo and other nutritious food every day. Since the zoo sends staff members to live in the same exhibit space, pandas are pampered with another two extra meals at night.

The zoo said that these pandas are recovering from the negative



Beijing Zoo staff members are caring for the pandas.

Photo by Yuan Zhou

effects of the quake, the long-trip and the new environment.

The pandas began to greet zoo visitors yesterday. Zoo staff members said they would control the number of visitors and set up a donation box at the panda exhibit space to collect money for the Wolong reserve, the hometown of all pandas.

The eight pandas are two years

old. Their homes in the Wolong reserve were badly damaged in the quake. Wolong is only 30 kilometers from the epicenter of the powerful quake.

Two pandas were injured and six went missing, of which four have been found. The Wolong-based China Giant Panda Protection and Research Center had 53 pandas before

the earthquake.

There are about 1,590 pandas living in the wild in China, mostly in Sichuan and the northwestern provinces of Shaanxi and Gansu. Another 180 have been bred in captivity.

As of the press time, the quake is known to have killed almost 70,000 people – including five staff members at the panda reserve.

## Pianist Lang Lang dedicates video to Olympics

By Huang Daohen

Young Chinese pianist Lang Lang unveiled his first musical art film last Sunday in Beijing, dedicating his renditions to the coming Olympics.

Jointly organized by the State Council Information Office, the Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee and Phoenix Satellite TV, the large-scale film *Lang Lang's songs – dedicated to 2008* tells the story of a pianist's childhood and presents for the first time a show combining the art of music and nature.

The film began shooting in 2006. The crew traveled more than 10 cities around the world and shot over 8,000 minutes of material.

During the film, Lang took his piano to some cultural sites, including the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and Huangshan Mountain. He sat in front of his piano beside the cascading waters at the Hukou Waterfall to give a passionate rendition of the famous piece "Yellow River Cantata" composed by Xian Xinghai.

"I could not hope to perform the Yellow River Cantata at a better venue than the stunning Yellow River itself," he said.

Although the filming process was difficult, Lang said everything was worth it.

The film opened his childhood to the public for the first time. "There are interviews with my mother and father about my childhood. I think it's helpful for kids who are starting to learn piano," Lang said.

The organizers said the film would be shown in Shanghai and Guangzhou before the Olympics.

## Central hutong to be the next 798

By Jackie Zhang

A new creative industry zone is now under construction at the Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District. As the first art and creative industry area in the central city area, 46 Fangjia Hutong, will focus more on music, movie and TV drama production, dancing and graphic design.

The project is part of the Yonghe Science Park project, a branch of Zhongguancun Science Park. "At present, abandoned factory workshops in the central part of the city are rare. The hutong location used to be China Machine Tool's manufacturing facility," Ding Zhenping, the project manager, said.

The cultural atmosphere around the workshop location is thick, with Guozijian, the Imperial College during the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties, Yonghegong, the Lama Temple, and the Confucius Temple nearby. "It is a good place to establish a creative industry zone in central Beijing," Ding said.



The hutong factory house

Photo provided by Ding Zhenping

However, the Fangjia Hutong location is only 4 percent the size of 798 art zone in Wangjing, Chaoyang district.

Ding said that the organizations in Fangjia Hutong will provide more musical and performance training to the public.

"So far there are around 10 organizations that have signed contracts with us and will enter the area at the end of this month. The area can support about 40 organizations and studios in total."

A few foreign organizations have

expressed interest in joining in. "We are in discussion with organizations from countries like France, Belgium and Denmark," Ding said.

Another feature of the Fangjia Hutong is that there are special houses in which visitors may live.

"All architecture here retains its original look. The area tends to draw a lot of foreign tourists who are here to visit Yonghegong, Guozijian and the Confucius Temple. When the construction of Fangjia Hutong base is complete, it will be another convenient stop," Ding said.

## Shanghai determined to clean up

(Shanghai Daily) – Shanghai city officials Tuesday talked about their blueprint for green as Shanghai will reduce the city's major pollutants in air and water by about 5 percent this year.

To reach the target, the Shanghai Environmental Protection Bureau will upgrade or close power plants, upgrade or build sewage-treatment plants and monitor the performances of local factories and sewage plants online, they said.

"We plan to greatly improve the city's environment by 2010 when the World Expo is held," Zhang

Quan, the bureau's director, said.

The city government expects to reduce sulfur dioxide by about 5 percent and chemical oxygen demand, or COD, by about 4 percent by year's end.

According to bureau officials, Shanghai will build or upgrade 12 sewage plants this year.

The city plans to close some generation machines of the Yangshupu Power Plant and to upgrade generation machines in other plants.

Shanghai will launch the online system of monitoring the performances of the key sewage plants and factories before September.

The bureau will install monitoring devices in sewage plants to record pollutant levels and send the data back to the central office.

Sewage plants or factories whose emissions did not meet environmental standards will receive a warning and could face penalties if they do not upgrade their treatment or management, officials said.

Shanghai also plans to greatly reduce sulfur dioxide levels by 2010. Shanghai invested over 36 billion yuan last year in environment protection, taking a three-percent slice of the city's gross domestic product, the bureau said.

## Scholars demand to know where highway tolls go

By Annie Wei

Three professors from Beijing University submitted applications to two government bodies and a state-run enterprise for information on the airport expressway's revenue and spending direction.

This week, the development and reform committee and transportation committee returned a letter to them, saying it would provide answers within 15 working days. Beijing capital highway development group (BCHD) said it has not received such an application from them.

The local government implemented regulations for releasing and making open information at the start of last month, saying citizens can petition the government to release information not currently available in the public record.

Zhou Hui, one of the professors, said that when the airport expressway was built, it was announced as a non-profit government project.

According to the proposal, the government would cease charging a fee as soon as its initial loan was paid.

However, the local government redefined the expressway as a "for-profit project" after three years of operation, and resolved to continue to levy a toll for 30 years. The same happened on the Beijing section of the Beijing-Shijiazhuang expressway.

"In more than 10 years of operation, information on the expressway's toll revenue and how it is spent has never been released to the public. As the users and bill-payers, we have right to know more information," Wang Xinzhi, another professor, said.

These professors are doing a study on reforming China expressways' toll policies, and the airport highway is central to their subject.

Zhou said when he tried to contact BCHD, he was refused. The staff member of BCHD said it was not a government institute and was not its responsibility to release information.

According to the regulations, education, medical, birth-planning, water, electricity, heating, environmental and public transportation organizations connected with people's daily lives are expected to follow the same rules, Wang said.

The professors said they might file a report or lodge a complaint if they cannot not get the information. They have not ruled out legal action.

Beijing information office said related government bodies must release detailed answers within 15 days, including if the information can be opened to the public or not; if not, they must provide a detailed explanation of why the information cannot be released.



# Post-quake focus on rebuilding

By Han Manman

Premier Wen Jiabao vowed to move quickly to rebuild towns and villages devastated by the May 12 quake. He told a disaster-relief meeting in Beijing that "the resumption of normalcy" was a priority, and it was necessary to guide restoration and reconstruction work into the legal orbit.

Governments at all levels have been urged to resume production in earthquake-affected regions along with taking care of lives as China works to rebuild ravaged parts of the country's southwest. Meanwhile, a draft regulation on post-quake restoration and reconstruction was passed on Wednesday.

The regulation put forward special requirements on earthquake-resistance levels of infrastructure construction in the quake-hit regions, including schools and hospitals.

According to the regulation, related departments should properly arrange the location of temporary houses and their supporting facilities and distribution of funds and materials.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development said in a circular on Tuesday that local governments must organize personnel to conduct safety appraisals of all school buildings as soon as possible to ensure the safety of students as they return

to school.

The Sichuan Development and Reform Commission said reconstruction work in the quake-ravaged province may take eight years, and the provincial government is calling for suggestions both from home and abroad to lay out rebuilding plans for schools and kindergartens. The plan was divided into two phases.

The first three years will focus on restoring and rebuilding work while the next five years will emphasize future development, the *Guangzhou Daily* report said, citing the development and reform commission in Sichuan.

Reconstruction plans will be posted on government Web sites

to seek public suggestions, especially from survivors of the May 12 earthquake.

Rebuilding will be done based on scientific analysis and appraisals of the environmental and geographic situation of quake areas. Possible aftershocks and the experiences of other countries should also be studied. A final reconstruction plan will be submitted to the State Council for approval.

The earthquake, centered in Sichuan Province, killed 69,122 people and displaced more than 15 million, according to official figures released yesterday. The death toll is likely to rise as 17,991 are still listed as missing.

## Qingchuan drains biggest quake Lake

By Li Fenghua

As of 6:24 pm Wednesday, the quake lake in Shibangou, Qingchuan County, China's Sichuan Province was drained of treacherous trapped water.

The sluice gate of the dam, which was broken open by the third team of the armed police, was as high as 15 meters.

After the devastating earthquake hit in Wenchuan, Sichuan province, an immense volume of water collected behind the lake's dam within the Shibangou area in Qingchuan County, and posed grave danger to thousands of people downstream.

According to water experts, the quake-formed lake in Shibangou, with trapped water exceeding a volume of over 8 million cubic meters, was confirmed to be a highly-dangerous lake. With the upcoming rain season, the 70-meter high dam could be ruptured at any time.

The plan to drain the Tangjiashan quake-formed lake was due to be implemented by Thursday or thereafter, with the trapped water volume having risen to 211.6 million cubic meters as of 2 pm Wednesday.

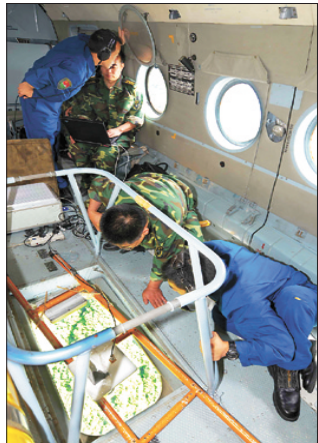
According to weather records, rainfall for June, July and August over the Tangjiashan area stands at 140, 360 and 330 millimeters, respectively. Rainfall of such levels would pose a grave danger to the quake lake, Liu Ning, chief engineer of Ministry of Water Resources, said.



Dam on quake lake is blown to release rising water.

Xinhua Photo

## Search continues for the nineteen



Rescuers do not give up hope in the hunt for the missing helicopter.

CFP Photo

Despite more efforts put into searching for the Chinese helicopter that went missing Saturday afternoon, the possibility of the 19 people on board being alive is fading, according to the Chengdu Military Area Command.

"It's been more than 100 hours since the helicopter went missing in the quake zone, and chances are growing slimmer for the 19 people to be alive," an official with the headquarters of the rescue mission under the Chengdu Military Area Command, said.

As of 9 p.m. Wednesday, there was still no sight of the helicopter. The five crew and 14 quake victims that were on board were nowhere to be found. The military sources said many aftershocks occurred at

the suspected crash site over the past few days, causing landslides and altering local terrain. The difficulties were mounting for the search team as the rescue mission continued, he said.

"We will continue searching for the helicopter and missing people adding more powerful technology," the official said. "We, like everybody else, are hoping to find them."

As of Wednesday, more helicopters and parachute aircraft had joined the hunt. Meanwhile, 10,000 troops, paramilitary personnel, and even local residents were still scouring the steep mountains, dense bush and slippery tracks exercising a "blanket search."

On Wednesday morning, six special technical soldiers were air-

lifted into suspected crash areas for field observation.

In addition, a water-land armored car is being used to search the bottom of the Zipingpu dam for the victims' whereabouts. The dam is located over the Yangtze River's main tributary of the Minjiang River near Dujiangyan City, one of the areas seriously hit by the quake.

The helicopter went missing on the afternoon of May 31 as the crew, led by Senior Colonel Qiu Guanghua, was undertaking its 64th flight mission since the May 12 quake.

According to military sources, Qiu's crew had enjoyed outstanding achievements before and they had already transferred 234 victims out of the quake zone since.

(Xinhua)

## Seven ways to settle the quake orphans

By Li Fenghua

Wang Suying, the president of the social affairs department of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, announced that seven methods had been worked out to settle the orphans who lost their homes in the devastating earthquake which hit Sichuan Province on May 12.

The particular settlement for each child will be based on the rule of protecting the children, and the settlement will be achieved through coordination with the Municipal Government of Sichuan Province, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance.

The whole nation showed great enthusiasm and concentration on adopting the orphans who lost their homes in the Wenchuan disaster. "The number who applied for adopting the orphans has reached 200,000 to date," Wang Suying said, "But there are still 1,442 children who hadn't found their parents or family as of Tuesday, and 430 of them have been confirmed to be orphans."

The particular settlement of the orphans will be done according to their own will. The preferred custody of these children would be by their family members. The custody should be able to pay for the orphan's education and other fees.

Another way is to be adopted by a family. Legal adoption procedures must be followed. For those orphans who are over 10 years old, the adopter should get the child's permission. To guarantee the healthy development of the orphans, the adopters should have the ability to pay for such fees as education besides the adopter's legal conditions.

For those who cannot be adopted by a family, the workers of the local civil affairs department should select the families who have the ability to foster these orphans, according to the regulation of the fosterage.

The fourth way is by a nurturing family. Caring families can care for orphans in a group or singularly. Three to five orphans can be nurtured by one family to help them develop healthily within a family environment.

Orphanages would be the fifth way to address the children who lost their homes in the disaster. Children's welfare institutions would be constructed to accommodate these children.

Boarding schools would be the sixth way. This is for those who are much older, who are already in middle school. They can continue their studies in their original school or transfer to some other better schools. The school should provide free accommodations for them and the living and study fees should be shouldered by the local government.

The last option is to rely on public good will such as grass roots fund raising or volunteer service and people who can sponsor one or more orphans by providing their living, education, medical assistance and recovery fees.



# French tour operators say plunge in Chinese tourists 'catastrophic'



Recent years have seen a surge of Chinese tourists bound for France.

CFP Photo

(AFP) – French tour operators fear a “catastrophic” plunge in business after an order was given to Chinese travel agents to stop selling trips to the country.

France is the most popular European holiday destination for Chinese tourists and some 700,000 flocked to the country last year,

with Paris, the Cote d'Azur and the Loire chateau region the most popular destinations.

But many canceled their trips after demonstrators disrupted the Olympic flame's passage through Paris in April, and travel agents in Beijing said they were advised to remove France from their destina-

tions starting this week.

“It is a catastrophic year for Chinese tourism in France,” Philippe Yao, director of the China Comfort Travel agency in France, said.

He said his agency had already had several cancellations following the demonstrations in Paris.

Among those who canceled was a group of 35 Chinese couples traveling to celebrate their weddings in a French chateau.

“The advice to discourage Chinese tourists from visiting France hasn't been officially confirmed,” Pierre Shi, director of the China Travel Service agency, said.

## Background

By Huang Daohen

Since the disruption of the Olympic torch relay in Paris, many Chinese netizens both home and abroad have initiated a boycott on French goods. Voices calling for a more calm response that would not also damage China thought a tourism boycott would be a better and more effective approach.

A search for the four-character phrase “boycott France” will turn up in many headlines such as, “Netizens call for boycott of French travel.”

Regarding alleged orders to cancel French tours, Sun Changwei, general manager of the international travel department at the China Youth Travel Agency, said his agency has not received any such order from an official.

Sun said the drop in French-bound tourists was more likely related to the axing of the former May Golden Week holiday. “Since the seven-day vacation was slashed to three, many people now choose to stay at home,” Sun said, “It's difficult to say how the grass roots boycott has affected French travel.”

As of press time, an inquiry to the Foreign Affairs Ministry went unanswered. An official surnamed Li at the Beijing Municipal Tourism Bureau said he never heard of such an order being issued to travel agencies.

# Shoemakers move inland to flee rising costs

(Reuters) – Shoe makers, battling rising costs and an appreciating currency, are shifting production inland from more expensive coastal provinces, where thousands of manufacturers have been pushed into bankruptcy in the past year.

Aokang Group, based in Zhejiang Province, has begun building the second phase of an industrial park in Chongqing municipality that will produce 100 million pairs of shoes a year by 2012.

Paramount Footwear, in Guangdong Province, said it recently opened a factory in Sichuan Province and plans to add eight production lines in neighboring Chongqing. “Labour in

Guangdong is getting expensive,” Jerry Shum, a spokesman at Yue Yuen Industrial, said.

The company owns factories in Dongguan city, a manufacturing hub in Guangdong, and makes shoes for Adidas, Nike and Timberland.

Yue Yuen has also been studying the possibility of opening factories in western China, encouraged by government incentives, Shum said, although moving abroad to Indonesia or Vietnam would also be an option.

China's shoe-making industry, the world's largest, has been suffering from rising costs for labor, energy and raw materials, as well as an appreciating currency that makes its exports more expensive abroad.

Of about 6,000 shoe makers in Guangdong, more than 1,000 folded last year, Aokang said in a recent news release, citing industry data.

“The cost of making a pair of shoes has jumped 20 percent in the past year, but most shoe makers are unable to raise sale prices,” Fan Manru, production manager in Aokang's Dongguan factory, said.

The government, in an effort to bridge the wealth gap between China's prosperous coast and less-developed inland regions, has been offering incentives for manufacturers to go west.

The average monthly wage for a shoe factory worker in Chongqing or Sichuan is less than 1,000 yuan, compared with about 1,800



Aokang is among the shoemakers who have moved to inland.

CFP Photo

yuan in Guangdong.

“There is a clear trend that China's shoe-making industry is

moving from east to west,” Aokang President Wang Zhentao said in a recent statement.

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Debate



Eastern and western viewpoints meet here



## 洋腔论见

文化差异的碰撞与融合



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Debate

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# Central bank dismisses fears over export collapse

The central bank on Tuesday rejected as exaggeration warnings the nation's exports are set to drop sharply, leading to an economic hard landing.

An analysis of the impacts of weaker export growth should be objective and allow no excessive exaggeration, the Institute of Finance Research under the People's Bank of China said in a report.

Some analysts are calling for easing controls to reduce the risk of hard landing, as weaker export growth drove the nation's trade

surplus to shrink 8.4 percent to 58 billion US dollars in the first four months of the year.

A drastic decline in export growth will not come in the short term, with the resilience of the US economy, the rapid growth in exports to emerging markets and the productivity increase offsetting labor cost rises, the report said.

The devastating earthquake on May 12 had added uncertainties to the economy, but its regional and short-term impact would not change the economic fundamentals, according to the report.

The quake had a limited impact on the nation's overall industrial production and farm produce supply, it said.

The quake, however, will drive up fixed asset investment and add inflationary pressures in the short term.

The government has earmarked 70 billion yuan (about US \$10 billion) for post-quake construction this year, and further funding is promised.

Large infrastructure construction will increase demand for cement, steel and other build-

ing materials, and the impact on their prices should not be ignored, it said.

The economy had slowed because of the US credit crunch, a spate of tightening measures and natural disasters, reducing the risk of economic overheating, according to the report.

The macro-economic climate index had been in the green (normal) zone for four consecutive months as of April, after being on the verge of overheating from September to December.

(Xinhua)

## Carriers cut flights as fuel prices soar

By Huang Daohen

Chinese airlines will cut overseas services to reduce losses as fuel prices soar, Xinhua reported Wednesday.

An employee of China Southern Airlines (CSA) said Tuesday on condition of anonymity that CSA would cut flights from Guangzhou to Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi (Vietnam), Angkor (Cambodia), Hong Kong, Seoul and Singapore from June to September.

Flights between Beijing and Seoul will also be affected.

Other affected routes include Los Angeles, Paris, Sydney, Jakarta, Lagos, Dubai, Delhi, Penang (Malaysia) and Fukuoka (Japan), the employee said.

At China Eastern Airlines, an official said long-haul services were unprofitable and would be slashed to cope with higher fuel prices.

## Water Cube releases branded water

By He Jianwei

Water Cube, a new bottled water brand, was unveiled Tuesday morning at the National Aquatics Center. The bottled water represents the venue's first step in trademark management.

"While planning and inviting bids for the aquatics center, we took into consideration post-Games use," Kang Wei, president of the Beijing National Aquatics Center Company, said, "As early as three years ago we planned to register the Water Cube trademark, and now we have a line of bottled mineral water from Canada using its trademark."

Last August, Kang's company obtained the exclusive right to use the Water Cube trademark.

"The bottled water is the first ever product that uses the name of a modern landmark building in Beijing," Kang said.

The price for the bottled water will be 10 yuan more than the average. "I hope it can be at the same level as French water brand Evian," he said.

## 'Sunny More' center built for children

By Huang Daohen

Sunny More (Beijing) International Center for Children was recently unveiled by Beijing Taiyang Gong. The center is the city's first commercial mall designed for children.

The center has seven floors in total: five above ground and two below. It has a large-scale category of children's commodities, including children's branded commodities, visual shows production and animation creation.

The center has an innovative children's cultural business chain and has introduced more than 300 famous brands.

# Shell China seeks opportunity in world's rising oil prices

By Huang Daohen

Shell Global Solutions (SGS), a subsidiary of oil giant Shell, will focus on developing advanced technology to boost economic benefits, Lee Tze Yang, its vice president, said while addressing the soaring global oil prices.

The market had no other option but to boost efficiency to cope with increasing production costs triggered by high oil prices, Lee said during SGS's Asia Pacific Media Technology Day last week.

"We have to do business no matter whether the oil price goes up or down, and the technology should come into play," he said, adding that oil refineries around the world had to boost the efficiency of their processing units, including refining low-cost, low-quality oil.

Low-quality oil is more difficult to process due to high contaminants levels, but recent technology breakthroughs have allowed manufacturers to extract greater profits, Lee said.

SGS launched last week a new refining technology called Middle Distillate and Lower Olefins Selective (MILOS), which facilitates the conversion of low-quality oil into high-end petroleum products.

The launch of MILOS technology also marks the expan-

sion of Shell Global Solutions licensing technologies for the energy industry and reflects the increasing importance of the licensing business in Asia Pacific, especially China.

SGS regional licensing manager for Asia Pacific Ken Lai said increasing global demand for diesel and propylene offered oil companies profit opportunities in refining low quality oil.

"Oil firms are increasing the value of their products even though they come from cheap raw materials," Lai said.

Data from Shell shows demand for diesel from China and India will grow 30 and 135 percent respectively this year.

SGS chief scientist for Chemistry and Catalysis Carl Mesters said demand for new technology to boost efficiency was expected to increase in line with rising oil prices.

"The more precious a thing is, the more you need to make sure you take care of it," he said, adding that SGS was willing to spend a lot on research and development.

The Asia Pacific Media Technology Day 2008 is designed as a platform to inform members from the regional media on cutting-edge technologies and innovations being developed by SGS to meet the energy challenge in the Asia Pacific.



Lee Tze Yang, vice president of SGS

Photo provided by SGS

# Int'l fund to focus on China environment

By Han Manman

GPE Fund, the largest ever private equity fund that focuses on the country's environment, was launched Tuesday in Beijing.

Australian Private Capital Investment Group (APCIG) and Beijing-based Berun Group created the fund.

"The fund has an ultimate investment goal of US \$2 billion, the highest amount ever for a Chinese green fund," Wang Xiaodong, CEO of Berun Group, said.

The green private equity fund will mostly look at investing in established firms focused on environmental protection.

APCIG and Berun Group are the supervisors of the fund, with individual investors coming from Australia, Europe, the Middle East and Japan.

Wang said GPE Fund received all necessary governmental approvals and already identified a few companies as investment targets.

He declined to name those companies.

With the government pushing for greener development, some experts said the fund may be more open for international private equity firms entering China to investment in local firms that utilize clean energy in their businesses.



# Puny donations incense the public

By Zheng Lu

Public opinion on the Internet has triggered an earthquake in the business world with China Vanke Company the epicenter and multinationals the quake-stricken areas.

A Dutch Uncle List of multinational companies was released to target companies which did not react quickly to the earthquake and donate to quake-hit areas, or which donated less than people expected. The list includes Samsung, Daikin, Nokia, Louis Vuitton, KFC and McDonald's.

This unprecedented crisis for enterprises began with China Vanke Company. Wang Shi, the president of the company, said "For philanthropy to be a continued activity it should not be a burden for the company" and "The upper limit of donations for Vanke staff is 10 yuan per person." The head office of Vanke donated 2 million yuan on the day that the quake struck Wenchuan, Sichuan Province, May 12.

Some netizens expressed discontent with Vanke in their blogs. They said 2 million yuan is far too little to match Vanke's image as trend setter in China's real estate industry. Wang responded in his blog on May 15, saying, "Two million yuan is a suitable amount," and "The upper limit of the donations for the Vanke staff is 10 yuan per person."

To netizens, it seemed remorseless to say such words in the current situation. "You can never climb out of your hole no matter how many mountains you ascend," some netizens replied in Wang's blog. Pan Shiyi, chairman and CEO of Soho China, defended Wang by stressing that he reacted quickly



Vanke's president Wang Shi declared that philanthropy could be a burden for a company, drawing public concern. CFP Photo

and did enough when the situation of the disaster was not that clear. Several days later, Wang apologized and donated an additional 100 million yuan for reconstruction.

The opinion of how much multinational companies should be expected to donate caused disagreements not only among the masses but also inside the companies themselves. Hundreds of people gathered at a McDonald's in

Nanchong, Sichuan Province, to protest that the burger giant did not donate money for the victims although it did in fact.

KFC has encountered the same embarrassment in some cities in Sichuan and Shaanxi Provinces. Staff at IBM expressed their disgust at the amount of the donations that the company contributed. "I felt very disappointed at our company's reaction to the

disaster," a Chinese employee wrote in an email.

Chen Deming, the Minister of Commerce, replied to the widespread list at a press conference of the State Council Information Office that all companies on the list had made donations averaging 10 million yuan or more.

"Voluntary' is the premise of any donation, and we must respect the rights of each person and company," Chen said.

## Comment

### More important issues

The unnecessary abuses and disputes are inappropriate when faced with the difficulties and hardships of reconstruction after the huge disaster.

— Pan Shiyi, chairman and co-CEO of Soho China  
**More money, less moaning**

In the face of such a terrible calamity and the hurt suffered by the whole nation, maybe we should have more sensibility and less sense.

It's lucky that other companies did not follow Wang Shi's example of philanthropy. Many donated more than 100 million yuan.

— Fengyundashao, land agent  
**Companies should be responsible**

The Dutch Uncle list is an expression of the public's expectation of enterprises.

The public understands that voluntary is the premise of a donation, but on the other hand, enterprises should understand that they are expected to accept social responsibilities on their own, especially when this country is a major market that has brought most of these companies a lot of money.

— Crocostoneso  
**Donate or not, their choice**

If the multinational companies donate money to us, that's their kindness. If they don't, it's normal. After all, they do not owe us anything.

— Ye Maoxia, netizen

# Students first, teachers second

By Huang Daohen

Should teachers run from the school leaving their pupils behind when a quake hits? A circular issued by Mianxian County in Shanxi Province on Monday says no, which set off heated debate over careless teachers in the quake.

The circular, launched by the county's education bureau, said that teachers who supervise the coming college entrance examination this month must be responsible for the students' safety. When aftershocks occur, teachers must not evacuate before the students, it said, adding that violators would be punished or even fired.

This new regulation stirred controversy among the public. An official at the county's education department who refused to give his name said teachers had a responsibility to protect the safety of students. "The majority of local teachers have expressed their understanding of the requirements," he said.

The regulation came two



Fan's 'honesty' stirred heated debate over teacher's responsibility.

Photo provided by Fan's blog

weeks after a secondary school teacher in Sichuan abandoned his pupils leaving them to fend for themselves when the quake hit.

The Sichuan teacher Fan Meizhong wrote about his callousness in his blog. Fan set out a his guiding principle: in matters of life and death, it's every man for himself.

"When the quake struck, rather than overseeing an orderly evacuation, he said he just shouted

"Stay calm, it's an earthquake!" and ran without looking back to see if his pupils were following.

Fan's story contrasts with the many acts of heroism arising from the Sichuan earthquake, and when asked about his actions, he said he only had concern for himself.

Fan's honesty sparked outrage, with bloggers dubbing him "Runner Fan" and demanding his dismissal.

## Comment

### Teachers are human, too

The fact is, at the instant of an earthquake, a teacher is weak, too.

Neither the state nor the school taught me life-saving or rescue techniques. I was scared, and my instinctive response was to run.

— Fan Meizhong, Sichuan teacher

### Major moral obligation

The ban sounds good. This sad excuse for a teacher and human being should be made an example of by the relevant authorities if this man's story (Fan) is in fact true.

He had a serious moral obligation to attend to the safety of his students.

In China, the teacher is the parent away from the home and I don't like his chances if he is formally

identified, especially by parents of students who perished in that catastrophe.

— Philip, businessman

### More care for teacher

I cannot say whether people should support or fight the regulation.

But more care should be paid to a teachers' safety. As for "Runner Fan," honesty is not enough to make a coward a hero.

— Ryan Lee, IT engineer

### Basic instincts

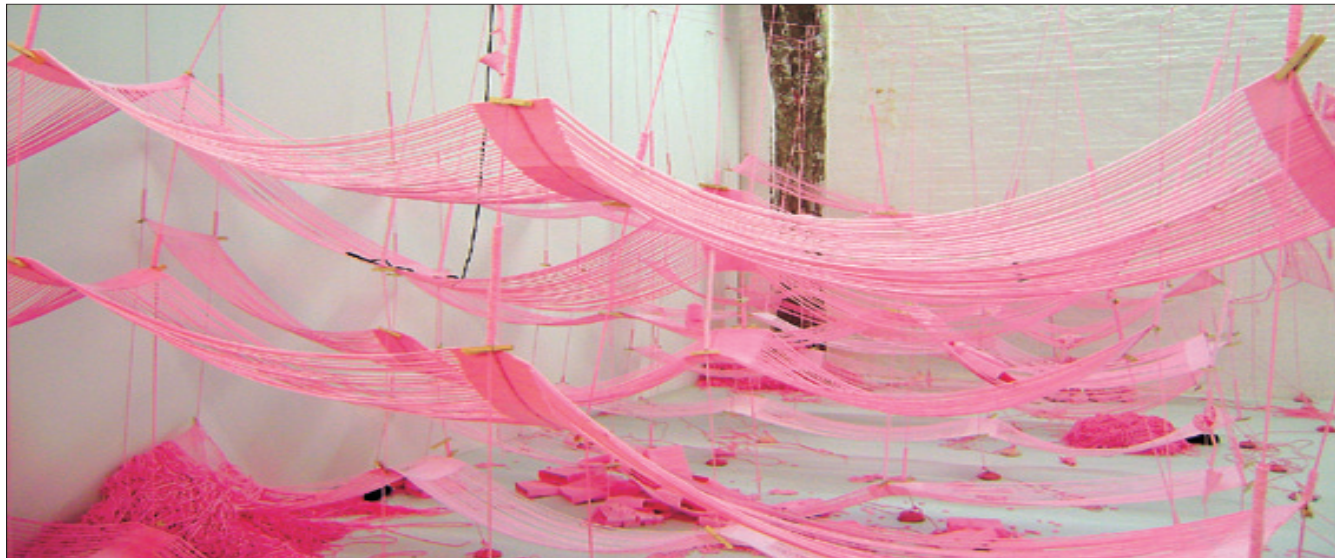
Give the bloke a break. The two most deeply-seeded biological instincts are "survive" and "breed," he was simply acting instinctively. And besides, it was only school kids he was abandoning.

As a former teacher myself, I can definitely see where he's coming from.

— Murph, expat teacher



# Artist gets in touch with his feminine side



Psychoulis's artwork, *Body Milk*, is based on a suicide bombing in a supermarket in 2003.

Photos by Zhang Dongya



Alexandros Psychoulis

By Zhang Dongya

The exhibition "Transperiences Greece 2008," organized in the framework of the Cultural Year of Greece in China, was presented in the 798 Art District last Sunday. As many as 23 young and internationally-renowned artists from Greece brought their artworks to the exhibition.

Among them, Alexandros Psychoulis was the last name on the list, but the most noticeable one

at the exhibition donning a traditional Chinese military uniform and with a little red book clutched in his hand.

The artist bought the uniform and book at 798. "About 10 years ago, I bought a blue Chinese-style jacket with buttons down the front in Paris. It was also Mao's style and I looked like a Chinese worker in it."

Psychoulis, 42, grew up in a family familiar with the art world since his father had a gallery. However, he started painting as a frivolous game and never gave it serious thought, even when he attended the School of Graphic Arts at 18, he "continued the game." When he finally settled it into the school he found no other options left but painting – "total bliss" for him.

Psychoulis joined the army in 1937 when he was 31. Since he was an artist at the time, he continued his work secretly during his two-year military stint. He found that when his bootlaces

were burned, they adhered to each other very well and with that discovery, he created a woman's dress using the bootlaces.

"The dress was all black, since the shoelaces were black. I used a lot of them, and I bought some for the soldiers afterwards," he said.

"We were told to go to the army to become a man, but I think you can get in touch with your feminine side in the army. The woman's dress can express the feminine part of me, the female part of men and the soldiers," Psychoulis said.

The dress which is now hanging in a gallery was his only piece related to the army, for Psychoulis hated army life and he refused to create works based on it.

His artwork in this exhibition is titled "Body Milk" and is based on an actual event that happened in 2003. An 18-year-old Palestinian girl burst into a supermarket in Jerusalem with a large amount of explosives tied to her waist. Psy-

choulis re-constructed the blown up supermarket with the use of pink braid, which is reminiscent of lace or a woman's knitwear – a reference to the female identity.

He approached the event from a social aspect as he is interested in recording human behavior in a public space directly connected to consumption such as a supermarket. "We are often gripped by an item of news that is in some way connected to our lives. I have very often been impressed by the familiarity a woman feels in a supermarket," he said.

The name "Body Milk" refers to body lotion, an everyday item sold in a supermarket, and the milk of a woman's body since the terrorist pretended to be a pregnant woman, though she carried a bomb instead of a baby.

"The pink color represents the female's happiness in the supermarket, but also you a symbol for death – which is a total shock," Psychoulis said.



Guo Jinlong, the mayor of Beijing (right) presents the honor to Cecchi.

Photo provided by Beijing Foreign Affairs Office

## Italian champion for disabled children

By Jackie Zhang

As one of the 2007 Great Wall Friendship Award winners, Pierluigi Cecchi, 64, has been in Beijing for eight years to help poor and disabled children. His passion of taking care of these children and contribution to developing the services for children helped him win the award.

The Great Wall Friendship Awards, set up in 1999, is the top honor of the Beijing Municipal Government to praise foreign experts who make great contributions to the city's establishment and development.

Cecchi was a pediatrician in Italy. In March, 2004, the Italian government signed a five-year contract with the Beijing Disabled Persons' Federation (BDPE) regarding the cooperation of disabled people's rehabilitation. Then, Cecchi worked in Beijing as the Italian representative, responsible for the cooperation details between the two countries.

Besides his daily work, Cecchi has invited Italian experts to visit Beijing and lecture. He has organized professional rehabilitation training courses seven times and invited 15 Italian experts to give lessons. The training contents cover how to help disabled children in the early stages of their illnesses, rehabilitation of those with cerebral palsy children and the rehabilitation of autistic children. At present, four Chinese young professionals are sent to Italy for further study. The BDPE has organized several delegations and visits advanced-equipped Italian organizations regularly. Cecchi has helped a lot

While training professionals, Cecchi pays attention to disabled children of poor families as well. In July, 2005, the agreement of long-distance salvation for poor disabled children in Beijing was signed between the Beijing Municipal Government and Italy. The Italian government donated 20,000 euros to help the children with their medical treatment, school study and rehabilitation. Before that, Cecchi provided his own money to help these children. He had helped three poor children with intellectual disability in Chaoyang District by paying for their treatment fees by canvassing for donations in Italy.

Besides Cecchi, 11 foreigners have been awarded the prestigious honor. Many of them have done a lot for the city's environmental protection, like Yatsukawa Izumi from Japan, whose company has done much in dealing with polluted water, and William Lucas Lindesay, a British man famous for protecting the Great Wall.

## Loving couple shows off photos and sculpting talents

By Sun Jina

Last week, Naysa Andrade and Andres Iglesias displayed their art work at the Venezuelan Embassy. Many of their friends from the art world also took part in the show.

They are a happily-married couple who share the same art dream. Iglesias brought his paintings while his wife Naysa showed her special light design. They become very excited when talking about their work.

"This is our first time in China, but not our last," Iglesias said.

Early on, he was a photographer at an art gallery. At that time, he dealt with all kinds of artists and became friends with some artists. Hung was one of them.

Over the past 12 years, they often had daily meetings and played chess together. Iglesias took pictures of Hung's photos or talked about his life. Hung's work had a great influence on Iglesias. From that moment on, he began to paint

all day long. One of Andrade's friends invited him to show his pictures at his book store. It was really successful and became the beginning of Iglesias's painting career.

Iglesias spent several years at an art college. But as a former photographer, he still thought that film gave him greater chances to express himself than through painting.

"Life makes us pure" Iglesias said, "I found I could dismiss anything except painting. I moved to Barcelona in 1991, where I painted a lot."

"From my current point of view, I think that the most permanent change happens when a person decides to do what he thinks he wants and then finally knows what he really wants. I know now that I live for painting and I'm very aware of that fact."

Naysa Andrade, Iglesias's wife, is a self-taught artist. Since she learned about architecture, she began to have interest in using design to



Married artists combine talents at Venezuelan Embassy.

Photo provided by Venezuelan Embassy

change the sense of space. When Naysa knew the concept of art, she began to express herself through routine elements like the light and shadow of sculptures, which showed her closeness with art.

The characteristic of her work was centered in the use of paper and metal. She showed her art ability and experience through these materials. She honed her sculpting

skills using design and casting.

Naysa was a member of the Jiatailuoniya Vision Art Committee. Her great achievements and improvements were mainly based on the shapes of cicadas.

"I wanted to use the cicadas to symbolize the growth of a person," she said. "The metamorphosis from a cicada to a butterfly represents artificial disintegration."





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Skiers from all over the world compete on the snow-covered Changbai Mountain.

Photos provided by Nordic Ways

# Skiing Changbai Mountain

By Huang Daohen

A great way to cool off in the muggy Beijing heat is to head for an icy world. The 2008 China Vaternrundan – Changbai Mountain Summer Ski Sprint is the big chill that will thrill.

The two-day event, the first ever summer ski competition in Asia, took place last Saturday on Changbai Mountain in Jilin Province. As many as 200 mountain skiers from 15 countries showed up at the starting line.

It was a very exciting event

even with the sun hiding behind the mountains in Changbai over the past weekend, and the rain and snow really making the competition difficult for skiers.

Despite the weather conditions, skiers seem satisfied with the tracks. "We can't do anything about the weather. It was snowing last night, and then it turned into rain this morning which actually made the tracks harder and much better than yesterday," Swedish skier Fredrik

Persson, said.

The sprint race turned out to be a big success for north European skiers with Sweden's Anders Hogberg claiming the title for the men's freestyle event. Bjorn Lind, double Olympic Champion in Turin and also last year's winner, fell right behind Hogberg at the starting line and finished second in the final.

Hilde G. Pedersen, 43, from Norway, who came with her twin daughters, took the lead in the women's final, while

Rintala placed second and French skier Elodie Bourgeois-Pin took third.

The Chinese team also sent its competitors to attend the event and in preparation had been skiing at Changbai Mountain for the last couple of weeks. However, due to lack of experience and being young, no Chinese skiers made it into the quarterfinals.

As a promotional event for the sport, not all participants started that morning shooting for first

place. Many of the skiers came simply to experience the amazing natural beauty of the area.

"It's a wonderful trip. This beautiful landscape has a dormant volcano, marvelous lakes and amazing hot springs," Pajunoja Aki from Finland said.

There was also a race for amateurs, providing them a chance to ski together with the pros. After the last day's competition, all players enjoyed their victories and relaxed in the hot springs of Changbai Mountain.



Bjorn Lind

## Bjorn Lind Interview

Bjorn Lind, 30, is a skiing legend in Sweden, and he is starting to create a name in China since his victory here last year. This time Lind returned to the event at Changbai Mountain for the second time.

Lind said he started skiing as a kid when he got his first pair of skis. "It's a tradition in Sweden to ski and there are programs on TV about skiing," he said. "So I started to take part in competitions when I was 6 or 7 years old and made up my mind to be a skier."

When asked suggestions for

beginners, Lind said that rookie skiers should first learn to have fun. "It is the most important advice I can give," he said. "If you have fun on skis, then you'll develop the drive to learn more about the technical points of the sport."

Besides, it is very important for beginners to keep a good balance, he said.

**Compared to Ibra**

When asked to compare himself to fellow Swede, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Inter Milan striker, Lind said Ibra was much more famous than

he in Sweden.

"Ibra is so popular, he is like a superstar everywhere, especially in Europe where everybody recognizes him," he said.

**Other hobbies**

Cross country skiing aside, Lind said he was fond of soccer. "I have played soccer since I was very young until I started high school, then I started to focus solely on skiing," he said.

Lind said if he was not a professional skier, he would probably start his own sports company. "Actually,

I have already invented a new innovative product related to skiing that is not released yet, but will hopefully be very soon."

**Impression of China**

Lind said China was a very different country from that of Europe. "It is a great adventure discovering China."

As for the upcoming Olympics, he said he might stay at home for the training period and watch the games on TV. "But if it's possible, I will come to China and get involved in some volunteer activities," he said.

## Up close and personal with Hilde Pedersen

Hilde, 43 and a senior skier, arrived in Beijing together with her family and the other European skiers this time. She is still active but not as focused as she was a few years ago. She did take an Olympic bronze medal two years ago in Turino.

**Beijing Today (BT):** What is the best thing about being a professional skier?

**Hilde (H):** To get opportu-

nities like this, traveling to China for a ski competition!

**BT:** How old were you when you got your first pair of skis?

**H:** Ten years old, and that was when I started to compete. Then at 20, I became a mum and had a break for a couple of years.

**BT:** What was your first impression of China, when you first arrived?

**H:** So many people! Beijing is a very interesting and an exciting place. I came here without any expectations and did not know much about China. But the impressions I've gotten so far are only positive.

**BT:** What are your tips for young skiers to succeed?

**H:** Vary your training and make it effective rather than enduring long hours!



Hilde Pedersen, a world top woman skier

## AFP China celebrates 50th anniversary

By Annie Wei

One of the oldest established news agencies, AFP, founded in 1835, celebrated its 50th anniversary in Beijing last night with French food association Sopexa near Chaoyang Park.

Invited guests included the

French ambassador to China Hervé Ladsous, AFP's regional director for the Asia-Pacific region and people from media and local authorities.

AFP China was established in 1958, as the earliest western news agency after the new China

was founded.

Reporters from the agency have reported on a wide range of stories happening in China. In the Sichuan earthquake disaster, AFP sent 10 journalists, photo-journalists and photographers to the seriously-hit area

and sent back many touching stories and photos to the world every day.

AFP also has many years of experience in Olympic reporting since 1932. This summer, the news agency will send 200 staff members to the Games.



# Free tai-chi taught in English

By Jackie Zhang

Language problems need not deter you from learning Chinese martial arts. For foreigners interested in tai-chi, Tiantan Park is a good spot to visit. Every weekend, there are university volunteers teaching tai-chi pushing hands in English at the east gate of the park, and for free.

Chinese martial arts has always been popular amongst foreigners and many of them are learning it both in China and abroad. Tai-chi, as one category of martial arts, stresses that people with great strength can be defeated by those who use softer strength correctly. Pushing hands is the basic movement in tai-chi to train people's patience, tai-chi skill and help adjust the body's inner functions.

"Chinese people can be seen practicing tai-chi early mornings in parks. But most of them are old people and cannot speak English. When foreign people see them, communication is not possible so they cannot learn tai-chi because of the language barrier although many foreigners want to learn," Xiao Bing, the initiator of the tai-chi pushing hands event, said.

Xiao Bing is from Foshan, a city famous for its martial arts tradition and atmosphere in Guangzhou Province. He used to be a PE teacher in middle school. Then, he resigned and started to teach tai-chi.

In 2004, Xiao developed a new kind of pushing hands by simplifying the traditional push hand's rules and called it Foshan pushing hands.

"The Olympic Games will be held soon in Beijing. I came here



Young children learning pushing hands from Xiao Bing at the Temple of Heaven.

Photo provided by Xiao Bing

and looked for opportunities to promote tai-chi among common people and especially foreigners," Xiao said.

He chose university students to be volunteers to teach tai-chi to foreign people, because the students do not have a language problem. "I would go to the English corner at Renmin University every Friday and find students were interested in tai-chi. They learn quickly and now are able to teach foreigners pushing hands in the parks."

Xiao said there are three to four volunteers every weekend teaching pushing hands at Tiantan Park. "The activity has been going on now for a half month.

Because there are many foreign tourists in the park, we attract no less than 10 foreign people to join us. All of them are interested and excited by learning how to push hands and how to use their strength in a tender way correctly," he said.

Xiao said the activity would be a long term one and continue even after the Beijing Olympic Games. But since the entrance ticket of Tiantan Park is a little expensive, Xiao is also thinking of organizing the event in more convenient locations.

At present, he is talking with government departments on the issue of adding more content to

the activity. "I want to set up a donation box for people to donate money for people in the quake-hit areas in Sichuan," he said. As well, the Hongqiao Market near Tiantan Park is also planning to invite Xiao to help them organize tai-chi pushing hands competitions among foreign tourists. "These plans are under negotiation. We want to provide more chances for foreign people to get closer to traditional Chinese culture," Xiao said.

## English corner of tai-chi pushing hands

Where: the grounds near the east gate, inside Tiantan Park

When: 9:30 am - noon, every Saturday and Sunday

## Emergency shelters set up in Beijing

By Zhang Dongya

Thirty-two emergency shelters have been built at parks and schools in Beijing, with a combined capacity of 1.5 million people, the Beijing Municipal Earthquake Administration said Wednesday. Among them, a total of 29 parks have been built with emergency shelters for natural disasters such as earthquakes.

Haidian Park, Yuan Dynasty City Wall Park and Chaoyang Park are the major sites for temporary shelters.

Wanshou Park is the first park to build an independent emergency command center. A series of facilities providing medical treatment, drinking water and landing areas for helicopters have been built. Its solar power supply system can provide electric power for about three days.

In Chaoyang District, Chaoyang Park, Taiyanggong Park and Anzhen Yongxi Park serve as shelters. In Haidian District, they are Haidian Park, Madian Park, Shuguang Disaster Reduction Park and Yangguang Xingqiba Park.

More shelters and facilities will be constructed over the next few years to protect residents in case of emergencies, allowing people living and working in the downtown area to reach the nearest shelter within 10 minutes.

The city built its first emergency shelter in 2003, and it plans to build 20 to 30 new shelters each year.

## China Tennis Open 2008 recruits foreign cheerleaders

By Li Jing

As a leading tournament in Asia, the China Tennis Open has been held every September since 2004. The coming season from September 20 to 28 in Beijing is looking for foreign cheerleaders.

From 2009, the women's contest at the China Open will be upgraded to be Sony Ericsson Women's Tennis Association while the men's contest to Association of Men's Tennis Professionals 500. That means the China Open will be listed as a "super contest" for both women and men.

The China Open Cheering Squad is the first officially-organized squad in the history of this contest, which is organized by the organizing committee of the China



Eight university teams from Beijing compete to be the China Tennis Open cheer squad this September. Photo by Chen Xiaogen

Tennis Open and the China Tennis Association.

China Open squad has 100 members made up of Chinese college students or young professionals. This year, the squad will recruit another 20 outstanding foreign members in Beijing.

## China Tennis Open - Kappa Cheer Squad Recruitment

### 1. Requirements

- Applicants should be female, between the ages of 18 and 30, 160 to 180 centimeters tall.
- Good appearance and figure, with an elegant manner.
- Good education background.
- Love sports and dancing.

### 2 How to apply

- Visit the official Web site at [enjoytennis.com.cn](http://enjoytennis.com.cn) or call Li

Jing at 6590 2526;

b. Download the Application Form, fill in the blanks and send it with two photos; one, a full-length candid photo and the other, an ID photo to:

[baoming@enjoytennis.com.cn](mailto:baoming@enjoytennis.com.cn)

### 3 Application time

June 1-22

### 4. Prizes and awards

a. Applicants win certifications of memorial award issued by the organizing committee of the China Tennis Open;

b. Winners get two suits from Kappa tennis including a coat, skirt, shoes, socks and a cap plus professional training in dance and tennis, become volunteers at the China Tennis Open and attend the Olympic Cheering Squad activities.

## Foreigner dos and don'ts during the Games

By Annie Wei

The Beijing Olympic organizing committee issued a legal guide for foreigners this week, with a wide range of issues including entry and exit, tourism and accommodation information.

The guide includes 57 question-and-answer items for foreign athletes, officials, reporters and tourists, asking overseas visitors to respect Chinese laws while in China

and not harm China's national security or violate the social order.

According to the guide, foreigners who are believed to be likely to carry out terrorist activities, be violent or participate in subversive activities, are not allowed to enter the country.

People who have been involved in smuggling, drug trafficking, prostitution and those with "mental diseases" or certain contagious dis-

eases (STDs) such as venereal diseases, or those who are believed to be likely to carry out activities harming China's state security and interests, are banned from entering the country.

The guide says that overseas visitors are not allowed to shout insulting slogans or display them on banners and also banned are religious, political or racial banners at sports venues.

The guide also says foreign audiences who have bought Olympic tickets will not automatically get a visa to enter China. They still need to go to Chinese embassies and consulates and apply for visas according to the related rules.

Foreigners can also rent houses during the Games period, but they must register at police stations.

Foreigners who stay with Chi-

nese residents in urban areas must register at local police stations within 24 hours of arrival, as well. In rural areas, the time limit is 72 hours.

The guide says that in order to maintain public hygiene and the civilized image of cities, sleeping outdoors is banned in such public venues as airports, bus stations, piers, sidewalks and urban greenbelts.

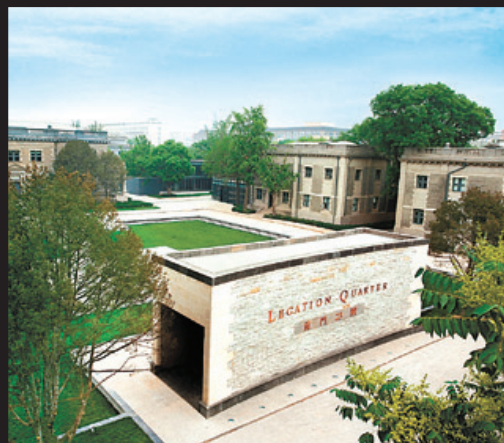


# ► Legation Quarter

## the lap

By Li Jing

Legation Quarter, housed in the former American Embassy built in 1903 just a stone's throw from Tiananmen Square, has been turned into a cultural hotbed, complete with the best restaurants and clubs from around the world.



Fengshui Wall of Legation Quarter



The entrance of the Beijing Center of the Arts



Exterior of Maison Boulud

### ► Legation Quarter in history

Legation Quarter, situated in the heart of Beijing, is named after its location, the former Legation Quarter.

An impressive granite compound. The five elegant buildings, nearly on behalf of the United States.

In 1951, the former US Legation Quarter later became the former US Legation Quarter.

In 1971, the property was transferred to the lead up to US President Richard Nixon's visit.

In the 1980s, the embassy moved to the new location in the legation quarter district, which remains as the only fully restored building.

### ► Legation Quarter: five years in the making

When China won the bid for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, Handel Lee, the developer of the project, kicked off the ambitious plan – transforming the former US Embassy into an integrated premier lifestyle development, featuring a diverse range offering the finest dining, arts and entertainment.

This premier upscale luxury lifestyle development took a long time to accomplish. “Designers spent two years in working out the renovation ideas,” Liu Lu, the marketing manager, said. Since the original five buildings are rich in heritage, it was not easy to get approval and when renovations included adding three modern buildings to the complex and building the capital's finest jazz club and full repertory theater under the main lawn, where the Stars and Stripes flag formerly fluttered.

At last, Cui Kai, chief designer of the project, proposed fronting the three modern buildings by glass curtain walls. The proposal was approved by experts in historical relics and resulted in a striking yet well-balanced architectural complex combining old-world elegance and modern sophistication.

It also took time to find appropriate tenants and management talents for Legation Quarter. “It is not easy to obtain professionals with fifteen years of experience in all fields, and we have hunted globally,” Liu said.

Since Legation Quarter only leased the former US Embassy instead of buying it, many official approvals had to be made during the construction process, Liu said. All the three elements contributed to the five-year long road.



The entrance of Maison Boulud



Lobby of Maison Boulud



Inaugural exhibition “Where Are We?” in the Beijing Center of the Arts

### ► A feast for the senses

The Legation Quarter project presents China's premier luxury restaurant and experience. It includes a museum-quality contemporary gallery, a flagship store of an internationally-acclaimed luxury brand, world-class restaurant and a top-tier business club.

Last week, the Beijing Center for the Arts in Legation Quarter raised the curtain on its opening joint exhibition titled, “Where Are We?” The center aims to inspire reflection on the depth and vitality of contemporary visual arts and serves as a gathering place for those interested in experiencing arts and art-related activities. Museum-quality contemporary art exhibitions, film and repertory theater programs, and lectures on current topics in art and literature will be held here.

A Patek Philippe flagship store also opened last week, which is dedicated to providing guests with an enjoyable and cultural five-star shopping experience.

In addition to upscale entertainment and leisure activities, Legation Quarter is a place for fine dining.

Celebrity chefs are getting in on the action. Daniel Boulud, who owns high-profile

### ► Handel Lee – the man behind life-style projects

If the high-octane mix evokes Beijing's more glamorous rival, Shanghai, there's good reason. Its developer, Handel Lee, was responsible for the Three on the Bund complex in Shanghai, which helped raise that city's style quotient with, among other things, an Armani flagship store and Jean-Georges Vongerichten restaurant.

Raised in Washington, DC, Handel Lee's life resembled those of typical elite American born Chinese – excellent academic records, graduation from a prestigious university and entry into a famous company.

When he was 20, Lee made his first visit to the land where both his parents were born. He was shocked at what he saw. One year later, he returned and stayed several months at Beijing University

as an exchange student. After studies at Virginia University and Georgetown University, he opened the law office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom. Lee was elected rector in 1999, 2001, and 2003 as one of the “Expert-Recommended World-Wide Leading Lawyers in Energy and Natural Resources.” Now he is a partner at King and Wood, China's largest law firm.

Lee once said his professional lifetime as a lawyer honed his negotiating skills to razor-sharp, which allowed him to obtain the best locations and landmark approvals.

Moreover, he is better known for his work outside the court. Indulging his passions for grand architecture and old blues and jazz music, Handel Lee successively opened clubs, scene-setting shopping plazas and has made himself China's king of high-culture.

He opened the courtyard near the entrance to the Forbidden City, Beijing's first internationally-acclaimed fine dining restaurant and contemporary art gallery. Since then, he has been at the center of the country's hottest music clubs, restaurants and art galleries, including Shanghai's most famous on the Bund.



# Quarter: of luxury

## on Quarter – lavish luxury cal heritage

located on Dongjiaoming Xiang, is housed in the former legation quarter district east of Qianmen. The building has been transformed from the former Qing Dynasty-era American Embassy compound. The grand staircase and stately columned main entrance tell a “neo-classical style” story behind the magnificent buildings that make up Legation Quarter were constructed by renowned architect Sid H. S. S. government in 1903 near the end of the Qing Dynasty. The former S. S. embassy buildings were used by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the minister’s office, and the Diaoyutai State guesthouse. The building served as a venue for secret meetings between Henry Kissinger and Premier Zhou Enlai in 1971, and as the site of Richard Nixon’s visit the following year. The former S. S. embassy building was re-established as a state guesthouse. As the years passed, many buildings in the Legation Quarter fell into neglect and were replaced by modern high-rises while the former embassy building was the only preserved embassy building from that period.



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restaurants in New York and Las Vegas, plans to open a restaurant Maison Boulud à Pekin in June in Legation Quarter. Besides, Michelin chef Claudio Sadler will offer innovative cuisine steeped in the traditions of Northern Italian cooking while creative in the use of seasonal ingredients and modern techniques in his Sadler Ristorante.

The Aqua Restaurant Group, creators of some of Hong Kong’s most stylish restaurants, will present Shiro Matsu, a cutting edge restaurant offering two dynamically different culinary traditions, the choicest Japanese cuisine and scrumptious Spanish tapas. Two other leading restaurants featuring the best of Chinese cuisine will also be established at Legation Quarter.

An outpost of the London nightclub Boujis will have a space at Legation Quarter and open for business in late fall in a five-level 1,500 square-meter glass structure in the north-east corner of Legation Quarter. Designed and furnished by Andy Hall Studio-Shanghai, the interior decoration of Boujis Beijing pays tribute to its origins as a quintessential British club, subtly blending old-world chic while still exuding a distinct feeling of contemporary luxury. Here you will not find the noise and crowds so common at large-scale nightclubs, but rather a gathering place for those looking for a healthy nightlife style and a place to relax, socialize and participate in the refined enjoyments of the successful.

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Music bar of Maison Boulud

### ► Info

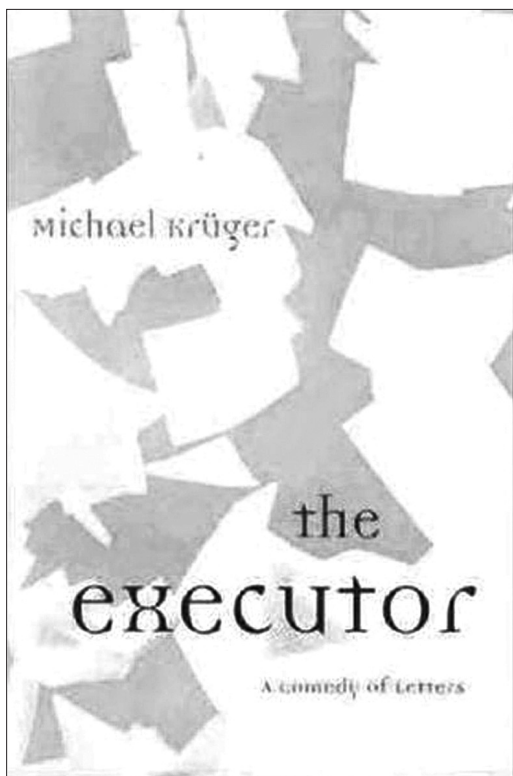
**Where:**  
Legation Quarter, 23  
Qianmen Dong Dajie  
**Tel:** 6522 4848  
**Website:**  
[legationquarter.com](http://legationquarter.com)



Neo-classical architectures found in Legation Quarter  
Photos provided by Legation Quarter Ltd.



# Satire finds bitter end for writer's friend



## Author recalls 'real history' of the 1980s

By He Jianwei

"The 1980s was the simplest time during my life, so I wrote this book to remember that innocent age," Zhang Lixian, the author of *Go Away, Let Me Celebrate the 1980s* (Shankai, Rang Wo Gesong Bashi Niandai, 362pp, People's Literature Publishing House, 24 yuan), said.

Zhang was born in 1968 and is part of what in China is called the "68 generation." It refers to people born in the 1960s, but who grew up in the 1980s and worked hard into the 1990s to become the leaders of today.

The book is a micro-history about the 1980s consisting of 12 chapters about the author's memories. Topics include playing

mahjong, campus life, fighting, listening to Pingshu story-telling performances, movies, soccer, computers, buying disks, reading, pornographic movies, writing letters and chasing girls.

Pingshu said, writing letters and playing mahjong are the memories of 1960s and 1970s children, but other topics cover youths of all ages.

"A person's childhood is usually the best time in his or her memory. When readers open the book, they will sigh as they recall lost memories or laugh when they remember moments they forgot," he said.

The book is not unique to the author himself, but is a collective memory of those who grew up in the 1980s.

Since its publication in April, the book has attracted legions of 20 and 30-something fans. "Although it is a book about memories in the 1980s written by a person born in the 1960s, it makes me think about my youth and future. No matter when you were born, youth is a time full of enthusiasm and sentimentality," Wang Huan, 26, a project manager in an IT service company, said.

The initial printing run of 25,000 copies was sold out within the first month of release. A second run is due for release very soon.

"To read a nobody's memories means to read real history, because his experience is a true reflection of the age he experienced," she said.



By Charles Zhu

It is a blessing if a man is a publisher, an editor, a novelist and a poet at the same time. Michael Krüger is such a man who is the head of the publishing house Carl Hanser Verlag, the editor of a literary magazine Akzente and has published three novels and a collection of poems.

His recent novel, *The Executor: A Comedy of Letters* (180pp, Harcourt, US \$23) has won wide critical acclaim. The novel is translated from German by John Hargraves.

The leading character of the novel is M, a German printer in his sixties and failed writer. He came to Turin in the wake of the suicide of his best friend Rudolf, who lived there 20 years as a professor and renowned writer. He had left a huge mountain of manuscripts which were to be compiled into a gigantic work, *Testament*, which the author claimed to encompass all hidden, discarded and forgotten knowledge.

M took upon himself the gargantuan task of sorting out the papers. He slept in Rudolf's bed and shared it with Martha, Rudolf's assistant and self-designated lover. From Martha, he came to know the romantic quadrangle that had been carefully maintained by Rudolf. There was Rudolf's legal and neglected wife Elsa, who was now dying of cancer at a hospital and who had all legal power over the disposal of Rudolf's papers. There was also Eva, one of Rudolf's numerous girlfriends. Among the boxes of letters from Rudolf's readers, admirers and lovers, M found letters between Rudolf and Eva, "love letters, despite their dry tone." From these letters, M learned that even before Rudolf's death, Eva had been planning to leave her husband to marry Rudolf. M learns it is the same Eva with whom he had had a brief liaison in Rome.

The manuscripts also delivered a message even deeper than the complicated love relationships. Besides the erotic aspects of Rudolf's life, Rudolf was also a radical activist in West Germany in the 1960s, engaged in "endless talk about the cataclysmic changes that must revolutionize the study of German literature." Rudolf believed his book would be the most accurate description of the sixty years of German post-war history.

Faced with mounds of papers, M asks himself an essential question, "Can what is real be contained in documents?"

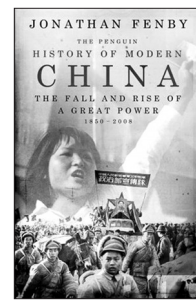
It turns out, comically enough, that Rudolf's *Testament* was nothing more than a compendium of passages from countless works of world literature in half a dozen languages. Rudolf betrayed everyone. He betrayed himself, his wife and lovers, his friend M, and even the writers he had revered in his lifetime.

Krüger here soaks his novel with a sense of shame, shaming futility and helplessness. He satirizes writers who are doomed by weariness and constant sense of shame—a lifelong deep shame at saying anything at all, at making anything public and who were obsessed with detail, slaving away at an ever growing mound of paper and in the end were forced to admit that even in their own estimation all they have produced was sheer nonsense.

The book is a rare comedy of letters, but a bitter one at that.

## Bookworm book listing

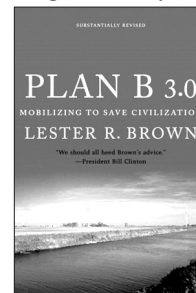
Jenny Niven from the Bookworm recommends the following new arrivals to Beijing Today readers.



### The Penguin History of Modern China

By Jonathan Fenby, 816pp, Allen Lane, 450 yuan

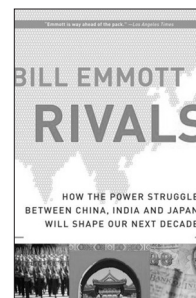
In the second half of the 19th century, China appeared as the sick man of Asia, rocked by recurrent revolts and huge natural disasters, ruled by an anachronistic imperial system and humiliated by foreign invasions. The first half of the 20th century was even worse, culminating in 14 years of invasion by Japan and four years of civil war. Now, at the start of the 21st century, China is a major global force, booming economically. It is impossible to understand modern China without understanding the country's recent past.



### Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization

By Lester R. Brown, 384pp, W. W. Norton, 145 yuan

The world faces many environmental trends of disruption and decline, including rising temperatures and spreading water shortage. In addition, humanity faces peak oil, an annual population growth of 70 million and a widening economic divide. With Plan A, business as usual, it long has neglected these issues. In *Plan B 3.0*, Brown warns the only effective response is a world wide mobilization like that the US mustered after the attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II.



### Rivals

By Bill Emmott, 352pp, Harcourt, 250 yuan

For the first time in history, Asia will not be dominated by just one country or by outside powers. It will contain three large, economically powerful countries, all with interests and ambitions that range across the whole region, and the world. The future of the world economy will be determined by the competition between these three countries. Rivals look at how the power struggle between China, India and Japan will shape the next decade, likely future trajectories of China, Japan and India and the potential collisions and intersections between them which will shape this century.

(By Zhang Dongya)





### Origin of the project

"Ten Minute Life" is a project that aims to tell personal stories within 10 minutes through video installations. Participating storytellers are from all places and do all kinds of jobs.

The purpose of Tenminlife is to observe how the ordinary people live and what they think in the fast-speed society. "People always lose themselves when they are working and chasing after the 'meaning of life.' Sharing one of their 10-minute stories with others is a pure and happy thing. Our storytellers are all kinds of people: stars, directors, architects, policemen and drivers," he said.

Before the beginning of the project, Wang said that if it went as planned, it could one day provide a landscape of contemporary Chinese culture.

### To regard life objectively

In the first round of the project, he invited 10 people to make 10 videos. "The project itself is an attitude. It is an attitude to regard life objectively," he said.

Among the 10 videos, a 70-year-old man Liang Zengjun told a story about an old woman, Duan Aisheng, 90, who suffered from leukemia and finally overcame the disease.



By He Jianwei

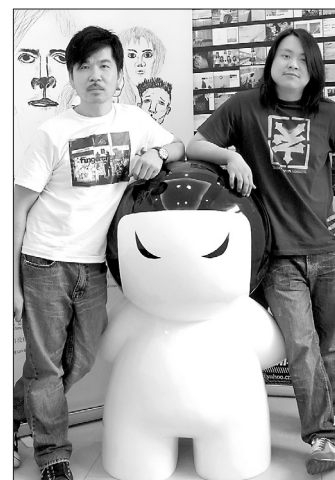
"We give you 10 minutes and you tell a story about life," Wang Yuwei, one of the founders of Tenminlife, said.

Tenminlife, intended to mean 10 minutes of life, is a video project that invites people from different fields to produce a 10-minute video about their stories.

It has finished two rounds showing the videos last December and this April respectively. The third round begins this November.



# 10 minutes to capture the timeless



Wang Yuwei (right)



Post of Tenminlife



Liang had encountered leukemia before filming the woman; the disease hospitalized him for three years starting in 2001. When he was released, Liang learned how to use a computer and film videos. He took videos of many of the patients whom he had befriended during his hospital days.

Shu Huang was born in China and grew up in the US. Joseph Magliaro was an American. The pair worked together as SHU&JOE to produce a video titled *Between There and Here*.

On October 27, 2007, they asked a group of friends to come for an interview at their studio in Jianwai Soho. "We didn't tell them how they would be helping. When each person arrived, he or she was asked to sit on our couch and describe to the best of their ability what they experienced on the trip from their home to our studio," Shu said.

"The goal of our film is to examine what elements of life in Beijing can disrupt a person while performing a very mundane task like traveling between two locations. The space between places is often considered a waste of time, something to be endured and traversed as quickly as possible. We hope to suggest that, perhaps, there is another way to experience this in-between space; one that requires engagement and openness to a richness of experience," Magliaro said.

### Create as free as you like

The only limitation of Tenminlife is the length of the video. There is no limit

on topics and creators are given full control over their 10 minutes.

In the second round of the project, another 10 people from other areas will be allowed to tell their stories. Some are setting their sights on the problems of urbanization.

Ren Jianqin, a teacher in a Beijing school for children of migrant workers, made a film about one of her students, Jin Xiang.

When Jin's parents went to work in Beijing, they left her at her grandma's home. In 2005 she went to Beijing to study in a school for children of migrant workers. One day, during her second year in middle school, she did not go to school. She eventually dropped out to work in a restaurant.

Jiu Guniang, a magazine freelancer, lived in Guangzhou. In *Center Tale*, she made a video observing the development of the city.

"Guangzhou has changed a lot in recent years. One of the biggest changes is in Tianhe District. Many outsiders come to that area. They work hard there, and it has gradually become the center of the city. But in the eyes of local people, the area by Beijing Road is the center. However, the government intends to make Tianhe District the center of the city. So, now Guangzhou city has two centers. I will contrast the success of Tianhe District with the decline of Beijing Road," she said.



1, 2, 4, 5, 6 Soul Outside by Xu Xizheng

3. Between There and Here by SHU&JOE

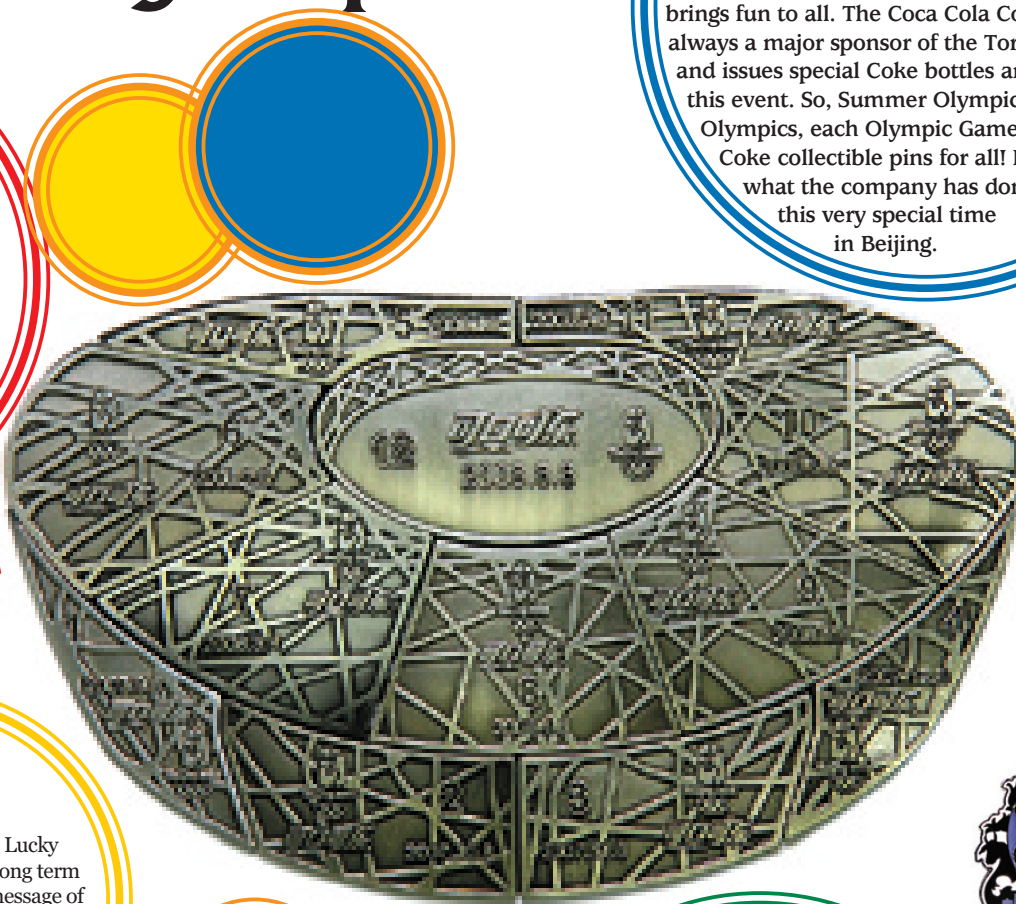
Photos provided by Wang Yuwei



# Pin your hopes on the Olympics

## National Stadium "Bird Nest" puzzle pin collection

This Coca-Cola pin, one in a set of twelve, is made from the steel from the construction of the magnificent National Stadium. By collecting all twelve pins in the set and by following the diagram, you can construct a miniature replica of the stadium, a simple way to preserve a valuable memory of this once in a lifetime event.



## Lucky Clouds pin

This Coke Bottle with a Lucky Clouds pin commemorates long term relationships that convey a message of harmony and global peace during the Olympic Events. It is great the way this pin combines fashion elements and the traditional lucky clouds of China.



## Water pin set

The Coca-Cola Company also expresses its environmentally-friendly ideas. Water, our most critical element, is fast becoming one of the world's most pressing global environmental issues. Last June, the Coke Company made a strong pledge to replace every drop of water it uses in the production of its beverages. Good for Coca-Cola!



## Coca-Cola Golden Heroes limited edition collection

This collection is a limited edition that represents the company's six Coca-Cola Golden Heroes and only 5,000 sets will be distributed worldwide.

Each pin is gold plated and is a unique celebration and recognition of the outstanding athletes that constitutes the Coca-Cola Golden Heroes. Portraits of Liu Xiang, Yao Ming, Guo Jinjin, Wang Liqin, Yi Jianlin and Zhao Ruirui have been uniquely crafted into the collection.



## Princess collection

There is a prince, so there should be a princess and there is. This hexagon gift box contains a beautifully-crafted set of pins, as with the Prince collection, depicting the 12-year animated cycle of the Chinese astrology charts.



## Prince collection

This collector set contains a sensational set of pins depicting the 12-year animated cycle of the Chinese astrology charts. This animated cycle stems from the culture, beliefs, and wisdom of the Chinese people, similar to the way the Olympics reflects the spirit and legacy of the Ancient Greeks.

Not only is each pin a reference to the Beijing Olympics, but each is also a beautifully-made personal accessory that anyone can proudly wear or display in a set as a treasured piece of art.



## The history of Olympic pin trading

The tradition of Olympic pin trading began in 1896 at the first modern Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. It started as a ritual among Olympic Games "insiders" – athletes, officials and media – who traded colorful badges used for identification. But the first official souvenir pin was not produced until the Stockholm Games in 1912.

In the 1980's, people outside the pin trading sub-culture became aware of the phenomenon. In fact, the popular phrase "pinheads" was coined during the 1980 Games in Lake Placid. Thousands of pinheads roamed up and down Lake Placid's Main Street. In 1988, Coca-Cola established the first Coca-Cola Official Pin Trading Center at the Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Approximately 17,000 people per day visited the pin trading center to experience cultures from around the world. The spectator sport became so popular that even US leaders became involved. During the 1994 Lillehammer Games, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea dropped by the Coca-Cola Olympic Pin Trading Center to trade official presidential seal pins.

Do not miss out on all the fun and get pinned during the upcoming Olympics!

Photos provided by  
Coca Cola Company



By Gan Tian

The balsam pear, or bitter gourd, is most accurately described by its Chinese name: kugua. Ku means bitter while gua means melon. It is a very bitter vegetable, but traditional medical theory says these "bitter melons" are the key to staying healthy during summer.



Icy bitter melon with beef

# Learn to love the bitterness of balsam



Oysters boiled with bitter melons

## Asian styles of bitter flavor

Though popular throughout the world, bitter melon's fame comes from its presence in Asian dishes.

Bitter melon is often used in Chinese cooking for its bitter flavor, typically in stir-fries, often with pork and douchi, soups and also as tea. It has entered daily life in expressions like "bitter Gourd face," a common description for a serious or sad face.

It is also popular in Indian cooking, where it is prepared with potatoes and served with yogurt to offset the bitterness, or used in *sabji*. Bitter melon is fried in oil and then stuffed with other spicy ingredients it is very popular in Andhra Pradesh, a south Indian state.

In Indonesia, bitter melon is used in various dishes, such as stir fry, cooked in coconut milk or steamed.

In Vietnam, raw bitter melon slices are combined with dried meat threads in bitter melon soup with shrimp. Bitter melons stuffed with ground pork are served as a popular summer soup in the south.

It is prepared in various dishes in the Philippines, where it is known as *Ampalaya*. Ampalaya may also be stir-fried with ground beef and oyster sauce, or with eggs and diced tomato.

## Recipes

*Beijing Today* has two typical Chinese recipes which use bitter melon. Both are quite easy to prepare in the home.

### Balsam pear with sesame paste salad

Ingredients:

100g balsam pears

1 tsp sesame paste (if no sesame

paste use sesame oil. But sesame paste is better than sesame oil)

1/2 tsp garlic, mashed

1 tsp vinegar

1/2 tsp salt

Preparation:

1. Clean and core the balsam pears.

Cut into thin slices.

2. Boil slices until thoroughly cooked. Remove and cool.

3. Add vinegar, garlic, salt and 1 tsp water in the sesame paste. Stir well.

4. Pour the paste mixture into the slices and stir well. Serve.

Serving Method: Serve as side dish at breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Beneficial Function: Soothes the mind and aids bowel movements. Suitable for people with constipation.

### Beef with bitter melon

Ingredients:

2-3 tsp raw rump steak

salt and Ve-Tsin (M.S.G.)

ginger sherry

1/2 tsp corn-flour

3 tsp bitter melon

2-3 thin slices fresh ginger

1 clove garlic

1 tbsp black Soya beans

peanut oil

few drops sesame oil

1/2 tsp soy sauce

1 dsp sugar

4-5 tsp hot chicken stock

1 level tsp corn flour

1 tsp water

Preparation:

1. Cut the steak diagonally into thin slices. Add a pinch of salt, pinch of Ve-Tsin, a few of drops sherry, 1 teaspoon of corn flour and work it well into the steak.

2. Cut the bitter melon into strips and drop them into boiling water for 5 minutes. Drain, drop into cold water to crisp them, then drain again.

3. Crush the ginger, garlic and black bean and mix them into a paste. Allow the oil for deep frying to heat gradually. Heat 1 tablespoon of oil in a frying-pan.

4. Add the ginger-garlic-bean mixture and the bitter melon and cook for a few seconds, tossing lightly. Add 1/2 teaspoon ginger, sherry, sesame oil, soy sauce, sugar, stock and another pinch of salt and pinch of Ve-Tsin. Bring to a boil and cook for 3 minutes.

5. The deep oil should reach a temperature of 190 C, where a dried slice of raw potato, when dropped into it, will rise quickly to the surface. Fry the steak in it for 2-3 minutes.

6. Blend the corn-flour with the water, stir it into the first mixture and boil for 1 1/2 minutes. Add the drained, fried meat. Turn all into a heated dish and serve.

## Where to taste

### South Beauty Oriental Branch

Where: BB88, B1, 1 Dong Chang'anjie Street, Dongcheng District

Tel: 8518 6971

### Financial Street Branch

Where: F1, Shuncheng Hotel, A16, Financial Street, Xicheng District

Tel: 6622 8990

### Guomao Restaurant

Where: L220, F2, West Tower, World Trade Center, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6505 0809

### Meizhou Snacks

Where: Building 2, A, Datunli District, Andingmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8480 5668

### Shangxiang Yapian Yutouguan

Where: F2, Huakong Tower, Building 3, Court 1, 6, Shangdi Dong Lu, Haidian District

Tel: 5885 1951



CFP Photo

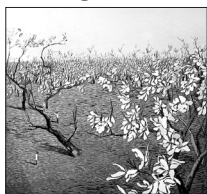


# 5 Friday, June 6

# 6 Saturday, June 7

## Exhibition

### Inherent Quality Native Land – Hong Haochang Solo Exhibition



Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 11 am – 6 pm, until June 19

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 4122, 13911166261

### Urban Scenery – Wei Haibin Solo Exhibition



Where: Fafa Gallery, 4 Yuyang Lu, Houshayu, Shunyi

When: Daily 10:30 am – 8 pm, until June 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 8430 2587

### Time for Flower Bloom – Xiang Chunsheng Solo Exhibition



Where: China Visual Arts Center, Zone D, 1 Art Area, Hegezhuang, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 9 am – 6 pm, until July 9

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 6755

## Movie

### La Cereemonie



Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

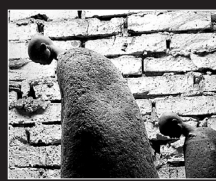
When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

## Exhibition

### Twin – Qiu Qinjin Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition



Where: 3+3 Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am – 6 pm, until June 20

Admission: Free

Tel: 6437 9942

### Falta – Maria Das Dores Solo Exhibition

Where: Imagine Gallery, 8 Art Studio, Feijiacun Dong Lu, Cuigezhuang, Lai-guangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang

When: 6 pm – 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 5747



### A Humorous and Lively Spirit of Brushwork – Li Li Solo Exhibition



Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, Huaweili 1-1E (North of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 9:30 am – 6 pm, until June 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 8779 0461

## Movie

### Irma Vep

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627



## Upcoming Concert

### French Piano Festival 2008

Who: David Krasumer  
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng  
When: 7:30 pm, June 6  
Admission: 30-380 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

# 7 Sunday, June 8

## Exhibition

### Insinuations – Joint Exhibition of 12 Photographers

Where: TS1 gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until July 4

Admission: Free

Tel: 6433 1588

### Inside and Outside the Car – Yin Da Solo Exhibition



By skillfully using the driver's view from the mirror, Yin Da positions the scenery appearing outside the car and the young girl inside the car into one space, making people imagine stories of desire, money and struggle for existence happening behind the space through the strong contrast between the vista and the make-up of the young girl.

Where: Artist Village Gallery, 1 North of Renzhuang, Songzhuang, Tongzhou

When: Daily 8 am – midnight, until June 29

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6959 8343

### Tale of Whaling – Ouyang Chun Solo Exhibition

Where: Han Ji Yun Contemporary Space, A 1 Beigao, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang

When: Daily 11 am – 7 pm, until June 15

Admission: Free

Tel: 6434 0266

## Movie

### 17 Fois Cécile Cassard

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627



## Stage in July

## Concert

### Bai Liang Violin Solo Concert

Who: Bai Liang  
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng  
When: 7:30 pm, July 9  
Admission: 120-380 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

### Concert Opera Fidelio

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

Who: China National Symphony Orchestra

When: 7:30 pm, July 6-9

Admission: 50-380 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

### Concert by Macao Chinese Orchestra

Who: Macao Chinese Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, July 12-13

Admission: 30-380 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

### Alban Berg Quartet Concert

Who: Alban Berg Quartet

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 15-16

Admission: 80-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

### One World, One Dream – Olympic Symphony Orchestra

Who: Sino-American Artists

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 27

Admission: 80-780 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

## Opera

### Aida

Who: Cairo Opera House

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 12-13

Admission: 180-880 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

### Tosca

Who: Rome Opera House

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 17-20

Admission: 180-880 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

## Dance

### Kataklo Athletic Dance

#### Theatre China Tour

Who: Kataklo Athletic Dance Theater

Where: PKU Centennial Memorial Hall, 116 Zhong-guancun Bei Dajie, Haidian

When: 7 pm, July 11-12

Admission: 20-280 yuan

Tel: 6275 8452

### Epic Dance along the river during Qingming Festival

Who: Hong Kong Dance Company

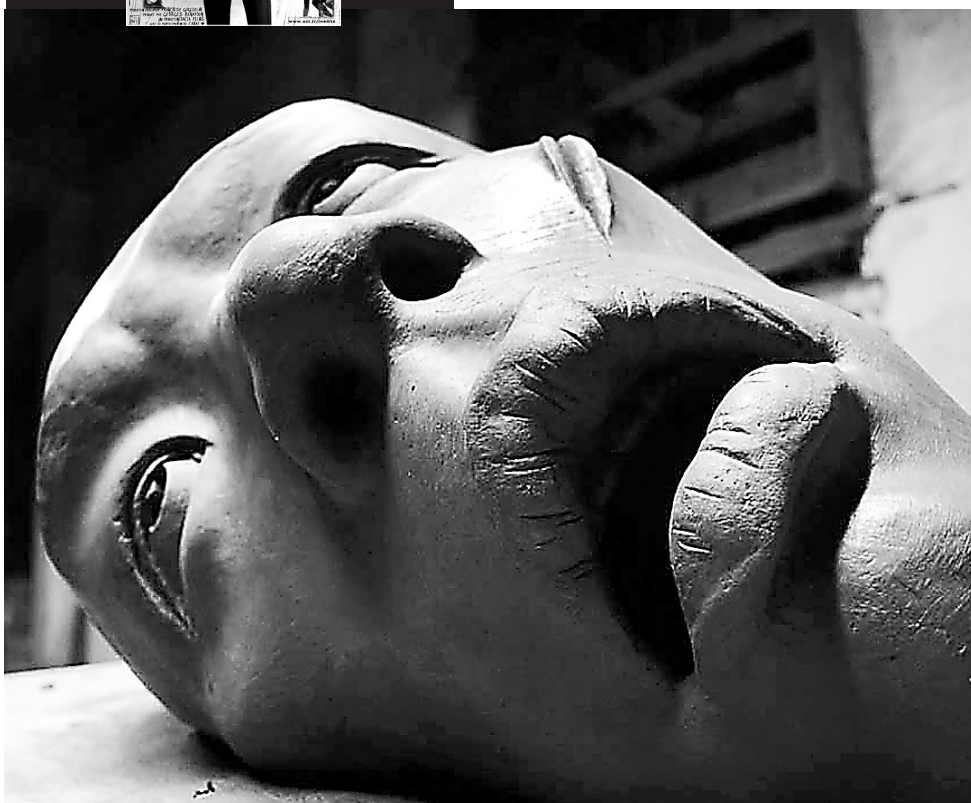
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, July 16-17

Admission: 100-600 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By Li Jing)





By Zhang Dongya

This Sunday is the day of "Double Fifth," the Dragon Boat Festival in China, where people will enjoy Zongzi, glutinous rice dumplings wrapped in bamboo leaves, to celebrate the festival and to honor Qu Yuan, a pioneer poet in ancient China.

Although Zongzi is now catered as traditional Chinese food in daily life, people will eat them in volumes during this festival. Choosing the Zongzi from sellers and paying attention to your eating style will ensure you a palatable and healthy festival.

# Zongzi

## a tough little delicacy

### A summer cooler

After a day at "Double Fifth," we start to enter into the hottest time in summer. According to Chinese traditional medicine, this is the time when people easily get "hot," meaning to experience excessive internal heat. And Zongzi is good remedy to help douse the fires within.

Zongzi is wrapped in bamboo or reed leaves which can help dissipate internal heat. Its main ingredient, glutinous rice, can also make one feel energetic as well as putting out the internal flames.

As for flavor, the northern style is the sweetest, with sweetened red bean paste or red dates. Zongzi from the south of China is either sweet-tasting, with walnut, red dates or beans, or salty with ham, eggs, meat or roast chicken.

Of the various fillings, the sweet ones with dates and chestnuts are the best option since red dates are good for the blood system and chestnuts can strengthen the spleen and kidneys.

### Dangerous delicacy for some

However, excessive amounts of Zongzi can affect your health negatively, especially for the following three kinds of human health conditions.

#### Cardiovascular disease

Zongzi with meat or lard is a really heavy and rich food. People with hypertension, hyperlipidemia or coronary disease, upon ingesting too much Zongzi, run the risk of increased blood viscosity, which can affect blood circulation, aggravate heart disease and induce angina pectoris or myocardial infarction.

#### Gastrointestinal diseases

Too much glutinous rice, which is rich in plant fibre, will aggravate digestive diseases. People who suffer from stomach trouble or duodenal ulcers could perforate the ulcer and cause bleeding with excessive consumption of Zongzi.

#### Diabetes

Zongzi with red date and sweet bean paste fillings are rich in sugar, and are often eaten with more sugar or light syrup. Too much sugar will damage the pancreas and make the diabetics' blood and urine sugar levels increase, thus aggravating the disease.

In addition, old people and children should not eat too many Zongzi. Since it is very sticky, it is not easy to digest which can result in heavy stomach acidity or diarrhea.

### The good and the bad

There is miscellaneous Zongzi in the market, so you have to examine them carefully to choose the good-quality ones.

Firstly, don't buy the ones with fresh-green leaves. Some leaves of Zongzi are dipped in dye to make it appear fresh green. The leaves should turn yellow after high-temperature steaming or boiling, so good Zongzi will never have fresh-green leaves wrapped around it.

Also, do not buy ones made by mobile peddlers in open air markets, with incomplete or illegible labels, or never purchase unwrapped quick-frozen Zongzi.

In conclusion, choose the sellers or shops with a good reputation and read labels carefully to see whether the packing is complete and pay close attention to the expiration dates.

### Other tips

1. Zongzi needs to be steamed or boiled for several hours depending on how the rice is treated prior to filling, so the rice needs to be lightly pre-cooked by stir-frying or soaked it before using if you want to make it at home.

2. Zongzi with a yellow color does not mean it is bad quality, but a kind of Jianshui Zongzi with the glutinous rice treated in lye, which gives them a distinctive yellow color. They are typically filled with sweet fillings, although some have no filling.

3. If you buy cold Zongzi in a separate package, you should boil them before eating. And don't eat the ones with a fresh green color after boiling.

4. Don't eat Zongzi at breakfast or before sleeping – they are tough to digest and will affect your sleep.

5. Leftover Zongzi must put it into the fridge and never left outside.

6. Don't eat Zongzi at every meal or only have it without vegetables or fruits as it tends to induce constipation.

7. It is best to have Zongzi with tea, which is helpful for digestion. Eat more green-leaf vegetables and fruit with Zongzi.

CFP Photo



# The Mosuo's lake of legends



Lugu Lake is nestled in green mountains like a hidden sapphire.

By Han Manman

The ancient and mysterious "Land of Graceful Girls" – Lugu Lake – has become legendary for the matriarchal order it upholds even today.

It is situated at the junction of southwestern Sichuan and northwestern Yunnan provinces, nearly 300 kilometers from Lijiang County. The quiet and limpid lake, like a beautiful pearl shining among the hills of the northwest plateau, is the second deepest lake in Yunnan.



Some travelers who fell in love with local girls gave up everything for life in the small village.

Photos by Han Manman

## Hoof-shaped lake

The five islands in the lake are split three to two between the provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan. A dozen Mosuo families live on the islands, giving visitors the chance to experience their culture and take in the beautiful lake scenery.

Lugu Lake is in the shape of a horse's hoof – long from north to south, and narrower from east to west. The vista of the lake changes constantly throughout the day. The morning mist mixed with the light of the rising sun gives the lake an orange glow. When the light of sun causes the hills to cast their shadows on the water, the lake takes on a jade green color. The lake is calm and dark green in the evening, when the sun sinks, and is peaceful when night comes. Gentle wind blows and water ripples.

The pretty and graceful Mosuo girls, the ancient and natural canoes and the moving and pleasant fishing or local love songs are considered to be the "three most enjoyable things on the lake." Rowers are more than happy to sing Mosuo love songs as they canoe about, as most Mosuo people are excellent singers.

Lugu Lake is embraced by green mountains. The best-loved mountain by local Mosuo people is the Holy Gemu Mountain, also called Lion Mountain. The local people worship it as their Goddess Gemu. Every July 25 on the lunar calendar, the people gather at its foot for sacrificial rites.

## Backpacker heaven

Many people go to the lake to walk, either a two- to three-day trip around the lake or a seven-day trek to Daocheng, Sichuan Province.

The most notable island of the five islands is Lige, a popular backpacker destination and the place most travelers start their lake walk.

Lige is no longer the exclusive realm of Lugu locals. There are many love stories between backpackers to the area and local Mosuo girls. Some travelers who fell in love with local girls gave up everything for life in the small village.

Besides the five islands, there are also three peninsulas and an island which is linked to a seawall on the shore by a path paved with small stones.

## Walking marriage

Mystery and charm surround the lake, partly because it was once an unspoiled place and still retains much of its natural beauty, but mostly because about 1,500 Mosuo people, a branch of the Naxi ethnic group, live there in a matriarchal society.

The lake community is the only place in China that still

maintains a matriarchy. Women are the top leaders of the community's extensive families.

There are no husbands or fathers there. If the Mosuo people find someone they love, they approach that person – usually at the campfire, as per custom – and the man "sneaks into" the woman's home at midnight for what Mosuo called "walking marriage."

They will never marry even if they love each other. If the woman becomes pregnant, the baby will be cared for by the mother's family. The baby's parents may choose to remain together "spiritually" or separate. Most of the Mosuo people choose to be together "spiritually," but some separate to seek new lovers. Although fathers are not responsible for their children, most meet

them regularly.

There are many misunderstandings about "walking marriage." Some believe it means the man can switch partners every night. Mosuo say that their 'walking marriage' is a serious tradition. Speaking about it, one Mosuo boy said, "Even though couples in love don't own or owe each other anything, that doesn't mean they switch partners all the time. Relationships are long term, until the couple falls out of love and they part ways."

## Home visits

To visit local families and learn more about matriarchal society is a worthwhile side visit for tourists.

Tourism has changed the community dramatically, and many families have developed their homes into small hotels. One thing that has not changed is the "Zu Wu," or grandmother's room.

The grandmother's room contains a large piece of fatty meat symbolizing the wealth of the family. After a pig is butchered and its viscera and bones are removed, the Mosuo people add prickly ash and salt to its insides. Then they stitch up the skin and dry it in a clean and shady place. They usually have to wait three to five years before the meat can be eaten.

In the middle of the room, there is a square fireplace, with an iron rack for standing the kettle. On the desk in the front of the fire are memorial tablets for their ancestors. The fire must not die out for it represents the fortune of the family.

There is a seating rule in Mosuo culture. The women, with the grandmother as the head, sit to the right of the fire, while the men, led by the eldest uncle, sit on the left.

## Tips

The weather at Lugu lake is pleasant – it is cool in summer and warm in winter. All the seasons are as comfortable as spring, but the best seasons to visit are spring and summer, when the hills are emerald green, the flowers are in bloom and the birds are singing happily.

The bus from Lijiang to Lugu departs early in the morning because it takes 6 to 7 hours to get

arrive and the mountain roads have no lights or signs, making night driving out of the question.

Parts of the road only have room for one vehicle to pass, so taking the bus requires serious planning. You cannot be late.

The bus from Lijiang usually arrives at the lake around 3 pm and departs the next day at 10 am.

Pretty Mosuo girls, handsome boys, local songs and ancient canoes are the top sights of lake life.

CFP Photo



# History and gardens in the heart of Japan



## Old capital city

Kyoto, with an astonishing 1,600 Buddhist temples, 400 shrines, a trio of palaces and dozens of gardens, was the imperial capital between 794 and 1868, and still remains the cultural treasure house of Japan.

During the 8th century, as the powerful Buddhist monks were deeply involved in the affairs of the imperial court, the Emperor decided to relocate the capital to an area far from Buddhist influence. Emperor Kammu selected the village of Uda as his imperial capital. Thus, the new city of Heian-Kyo (capital of tranquility and peace) became the seat of Japan's imperial court in 794, ushering in the Heian period in Japanese history. Later, the city was renamed Kyoto (capital city). Kyoto remained Japan's capital until the power of government was transferred to Edo in 1868 at the time of imperial Restoration. It assumed the name of Saikyo (western capital), Miako (capital), Keishi (metropolis).

The city suffered extensive destruction in the Onin War of 1467-1477, and did not recover until the mid-16th century. Battles between samurai factions spilled into the streets and came to involve court nobility (*kuge*) and religious factions as well. The city has not seen such widespread destruction since. Although there was some consideration by the US of targeting Kyoto with an atomic bomb at the end of World War II, in the end it was decided to remove the city from the list of targets due to the "beauty of the city" and the city was spared conventional bombing as well.

As a result, Kyoto is the only large Japanese city that still has an abundance of prewar buildings, such as the traditional townhouses known as *machiya*. However, modernization is continually breaking down the traditional Kyoto in favor of newer architecture, such as the Kyoto Station complex.

By Shida Zhu

I took the Shinkansen from Tokyo to Kyoto to attend an international forum upon the invitation of the University of Kyoto. The first and foremost impression of mine when I arrived in its futuristic station building was that the city was immaculate. On my way to the All Japan Air Hotel where I would stay, I saw many one or two-storied Japanese homes that were similar to Chinese ones with their gray-tiled roofs in a simple architectural style.



## Japanese gardening, a perfect art

In Kyoto, I was particularly struck by the art of Japanese gardening that makes the best use of the terrain either as artificial hills or level ground. A simple Japanese wooden bridge spans quietly over a pond of water lilies in dabs of exquisite colors. Simple as it is, it has such a powerful artistic appeal. I experienced a similar feeling when I stayed at Kyoto. When my Japanese hosts invited me to a restaurant, I found, simple as it was, the establishment had a first-rate backyard garden. A stream ran down from a forested hill and snaked through the terrain spanned so casually, and yet so artistically by a wooden bridge that led to the forest.

Japanese hill gardens, as a rule, include a stream and a pond with stone lanterns scattered over the landscape. There is also dried-up landscape style, where artificial rocks are made to suggest a waterfall and its basin, while gravel or sand is used to symbolize water.

Among the masterpieces of gardening in Kyoto is the lake-side Katsura Imperial Villa built in the seventeenth century by Prince Toshihito, the first generation of the Princes of Katsura. Its garden is renowned as the most beautiful in Japan. A path of exquisite beauty lined by lush plant life leads quietly to the Shokintei teahouse, where there are a pool, stone bridges, rockwork and a pine-zither grove. At the end of a monolithic stone bridge stands a rock arrangement. The stepping-stone pathways at the edge of the pool seem to have been so masterfully thrown over the water surface by some mystic power.



## Kyoto Imperial Palace

The city boasts the Kyoto Imperial Palace, the emperor's residence until 1868, Nijo Castle, the Kyoto residence of the Tokugawa shogun and Toji Temple, site of Japan's tallest pagoda.

The Kyoto Imperial Palace (Kyoto Goshu), located in the spacious Kyoto Imperial Park, still retains the look and ambiance of ancient imperial dynasties.

The current palace was built in 1855 and comprises several structures—including the Shishinden, the Seiryoden, the Kogosyo, the Dgakumonjyo and the Otsunogoten—that reflect the architectural styles of various periods.

The palace was burned down and moved around the city several times over the centuries. The present reconstruction dates from 1855. The palace complex is enclosed by a long wall and consists of several gates, halls and gardens. The enthronement ceremonies of Emperors Taisho and Showa were still held in the palace's main hall, but the present Emperor's ceremony took place at the Tokyo Imperial Palace.

Surrounded by an earthen wall called Tsuiji, Kyoto Imperial Palace is rectangular. It has six gates, including the main gate Kenreimon. It was burned down several times in history and each time it was reconstructed in accordance with the original ancient style. The last reconstruction was done in 1855. With the Shishinden (Ceremonial Hall) as the main building, the Seiryoden, the Kogosho and several other structures are located here. To the south of the Shishinden is the Dantei (courtyard) of white sand. On its three sides is a white-walled corridor with bright vermilion pillars. Along the corridor, facing the Shishinden, is the Jomeimon gate.

As I strolled in the palace, I could keenly feel the architectural influences of successive Chinese and Korean dynasties and the superb talent of Japanese designers.

The palace can be visited only on guided tours held by the Imperial Household Agency. In order to join a tour, you need to apply for permission in advance with your passport at the agency's office in the Kyoto Imperial Park. Reservations over the Internet are also possible.

English tours are currently held twice a day on weekdays and on some Saturdays. No tours are held on Sundays and national holidays.

The Imperial Palace can be reached in about 10 minutes from Kyoto Station by the Karasuma Subway Line. Get off at Marutamachi or Imadegawa Station. The latter is closer to the agency.



Although there was some consideration by the US of targeting Kyoto with an atomic bomb at the end of World War II, in the end it was decided to remove the city from the list of targets due to the "beauty of the city."

Photos by flickr.com



# Dynamic Leadership

By Michael Allison

Leadership is an extremely "hot" topic in China these days. As the global market becomes increasingly competitive and continues changing at breakneck speed, firms in China, both multinationals and mainland companies, are finding that skilled leadership is necessary in order to effectively communicate their vision to their employees and execute their business strategies.

Companies, both large and small, that focus on hiring and developing leaders who are willing to courageously face and implement change within their organizations and who can effectively communicate the reasons for change to their employees will grow and prosper in the decades to come. As John Kotter of Harvard Business School, said, "The rate of change is not going to slow down anytime soon. If anything, competition in most industries will probably speed up even more in the next few decades."

All companies should have a system in place to assess the leadership abilities of their senior, middle, and line managers. It is also vitally important to provide regular leadership training

in order to help staff to continually develop and hone their leadership skills. Although many companies in China are now recognizing the need for such training, there is still a real shortage of individuals who truly possess the ability to lead others.

For example, in order for a

The above facts underscore why Chinese companies must provide regular leadership training for their staff. Additionally, in my "Dynamic Leadership" training, I stress that all employees should be helped to develop leadership skills and use them in their daily life and work. Imag-

**"Although many companies in China are now recognizing the need for such training, there is still a real shortage of individuals who truly possess the ability to lead others."**

company with 100 employees to successfully execute its' business strategy, 25 percent of its employees need to be part of the guiding coalition that is responsible for clearly communicating the strategy and motivating and leading the rest of the team to carry it out. Additionally, business strategies are not executed overnight. It often takes a number of years in order to successfully do so. Even after victory has been declared, it is necessary to remain vigilant in order to continuously evaluate, adjust and even change again when required to do so.

ine how dynamic a company would be with most, if not all, of the staff being given such training and empowered to lead. How much easier do you think it would be to successfully execute your company's strategy if all employees were leaders and were willing to lead within the scope of their responsibility?

An intensive two- or three-day leadership training course that incorporates a company's own case studies along with open discussions, leadership activities, role plays and games is extremely effective and practical in helping

individuals to understand what leadership really is, why it is such an important skill to develop and how it can be practically applied in an organization in order to successfully drive change and achieve outstanding results.

One of the first things I train corporate leaders to do is how to actually write out their vision for their organization clearly and simply and then communicate it to others. It is quite surprising to see how long and confusing many corporate vision statements are and how few people in most organizations can actually explain their company's vision. If individuals do not know what the vision is or if the vision statement is so long and complex that no one really understands it, how will a company ever achieve its' strategic objectives? Explaining your companies vision and strategy for change, should take five minutes or less and the other party should be able to clearly understand what you have communicated to them.

Companies with the most effective leadership across all departments and functions will always achieve the highest level of results and successfully exe-



Michael Allison  
Guangzhou Corporate  
Training Manager,  
ClarkMorgan  
Corporate Training

cute their strategies. They will continue to set the standard by which all others are judged. Investing time and effort in evolving your people to become effective leaders is an investment in your organizations' future success.

**For further information on Michael's training techniques, please see [clarkmorgan.com](http://clarkmorgan.com)**

## Charity



### China UI charity sale for Sichuan

China UI launches T-shirts with different themes every year. This year China UI, cooperated with a professional T-shirt merchant and designed shirts with the image of china hearts and the time 14:28 emblazoned on them. The 50-yuan T-shirts were specially designed for the charity sale for Sichuan. Funds raised will be totally donated to support all the victims of the affected areas. To buy T-shirts, please visit [chinaui.com](http://chinaui.com) or email [web@chinaui.com](mailto:web@chinaui.com) for English service.

## Aviation

### Emirates Airline's 100 percent e-ticket enabled

Emirates Airline has been 100 percent e-ticket enabled across all of its online destinations. In addition, Emirates e-tickets are being issued by ten global distribution systems (GDS) and travel agent systems.

The easy booking and reservation process can be experienced by visiting Emirates' Chinese website [emirates.cn](http://emirates.cn), where online customers can purchase tickets, confirm a booking, check-in online and choose their preferred seat.

## Outdoors

### Secret great wall hiking from Jiankou to Mutianyu

During this tour, you will experience two kinds of Great Wall: un-restored Great Wall at Jiankou and restored Great Wall at Mutianyu.

Mutianyu Great Wall winds along mountains from the southeast to the northwest for about 2.25 kilometers, connected with the Juyongguan Pass to the west and Gubeikou to the east.

The Jiankou Great Wall was built in 1368. It is constructed of large white hill rocks which makes it very noticeable from a distance.

**Where:** meet in front of the Swissotel Beijing (Exit C, Dong Sishitiao Railway Station)

**When:** 8 am - 5 pm, July 7

**Cost:** 300 yuan (adult), 180 yuan (child under 12)

**Contacts:** 13910150509 or [info@pixieadventures.com](mailto:info@pixieadventures.com) (reservations are essential).

### Ningxia: from Gobi Desert Alashan to Moon Lake

Situated in the eastern part of the northwest inland, Ningxia is at the Great Bend of the Yellow River. The northern Ningxia is surrounded by Inner Mongolia while the southern part is bounded by Gansu Province and on the east, Shanxi Province. It was once an important stop along the north Silk Road, connecting central Asia, the north desert and inland plains.

**When:** fly to Yinchuan on June 7 and fly back to Beijing on June 9

**Cost:** 5,200 yuan

**Tel:** 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

(By Li Jing)

## Nightlife

### Metal new wave

The show features Lost Control of Logic and five other metal bands.

**Where:** Yugong Yishan, West Coutyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3 Zhang-zizhong Lu, Dongcheng

**When:** 8:30 pm, June 6

**Admission:** 50 yuan

**Tel:** 6404 2711

### Wu Kejia and Gao Bo joint concert

**Where:** New Get Luck Bar (Haoyun), A1 Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang

**When:** 9:30 pm, June 11

**Admission:** Free

**Tel:** 8448 3335

## Hotel

### Summer breeze

Excite your appetite with an outdoor Italian BBQ and aromatic sizzling rotisserie. Peruse the enormous outdoor spread featuring quality cuts of tender imported beef, pork, chicken and seafood as well as fresh garden vegetables and a variety of sides for you to choose, all cooked and prepared right before you.

**Where:** the Westin Beijing, 9B Jinrong Jie, Xicheng

**Open:** 11 am - 11:30 pm

**Cost:** All prices are subject to a 15 percent service charge

**Tel:** 6629 7815

If you have any info for this page, please send it to [lixiaojing@ynet.com](mailto:lixiaojing@ynet.com)



## Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

# The choker joker



By Charles Zhu

We were a group of very good friends living under the same roof in Somerville though we came from different countries. Dave was an American boy from Ohio. With hay-colored hair, he looked strong and robust, a typical guy from middle America. He was kind and friendly to all of us and ready to help whenever he was wanted.

He liked to go to the fitness center and groom his muscles. In the dead of winter, he sometimes came to the kitchen half-naked and announced, "Hi, dudes, look at this tough American body!" Tough, sure, he was!

Dave had a very affectionate and loving mom back in Ohio. She called almost every weekend. He had very good marks at the university. Everything seemed in his favor. He enjoyed his life very much.

However, he still had something to be desired. Just as Austin said, "A man in possession of a fortune must be in want of a wife." Dave was. He was look-

ing for a girl that suited him at numerous student parties.

He succeeded one day and brought a Chinese girl to the house. Nancy was very nice, talkative and energetic. We were all very happy for Dave's sake.

One day when we were gathered in the living room watching the football game, Dave blurted out, "I put a choker on Nancy's neck today."

We were all surprised and remained silent. A choker? My God, Why should he choke Nancy? Weren't they on very nice terms with each other just days ago?

We all thought they had broken up because Dave had gone to such lengths as to try to choke his girl friend. We felt sorry for him.

When the semester ended and everybody was planning to go somewhere for the summer, we decided to hold a house party for our friends. As Dave was strong, he took up the task of purchasing the beer barrel from the Star Market.

In the evening, friends kept streaming up the staircase and into the living room. The stereo was playing "You're my Venus, You're my fire." The whole house seemed to be burning up with young fire.

Then Dave arrived in his blue Peugeot and parked in front of the house. To everybody's surprise, he exited the car with Nancy. She looked particularly cute with a sapphire necklace around her neck. They seemed more intimate than ecstatic.

"We thought you have choked her in anger since you announced a while ago that you had put a choker on her neck," I said to Dave when he was alone in the living room, holding his Budweiser can.

He laughed a hearty laugh. "You dudes are really something. When I said 'I put a choker on her neck,' it means 'I put a necklace on her neck.' It has nothing to do with choking."

I sat back in my chair and was choked up with embarrassment on learning the truth.

## Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

## Local professor: Zhu Shida

### 1. Conference presented by publishing officials

The problem with this is the collocation of words. For a conference, it is not a matter of "presenting," it is a matter of sponsorship. So, idiomatically, a conference is sponsored by publishing officials, absolutely not "presented."

### 2. They can go exercise at fitness clubs.

When the verb "go" and the verb "exercise" are used together, you will have to say: "They can go exercising" or "go and exercise." For example, "The athlete went and hurled the discus for a new Olympic record." For another example, "Please go and see whether he is still in the office."

### 3. Enough available rooms for tourists

For idiomatic English, when you wish to indicate something is enough, you will have to use this word order: "Enough rooms available for tourists." Here "enough" is an adjective. When it is used as an adverb, it means sufficiently or adequately. For example, "Have you played enough?" When it is used as a noun, it means a quantity needed or wanted. For example, "Has he had enough to eat?"

## Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

### 1. Conference presented by publishing officials

The problem here is the wrong verb in the wrong place. "Presented" should not be used here. It gives the impression that the officials are being published, literally, and in the history of all mankind, a human being has never been actually "published." Many literary works, yes, but never a human. How painful would that be, I'm wondering. In the example sentence, we are talking sponsorship and the idea should be written as, "Conference sponsored by publishing officials."

### 2. They can go exercise at fitness clubs.

You can't super-glue the verbs "go" and "exercise" together. Not a marriage made in grammatical heaven. The best solution is to go over to the plus side and add an "and" in between to read, "They can go and exercise at fitness clubs." You can also say, "They can go exercising at fitness clubs." Or, simply make the word, "go," get up and go and say, "They can exercise at fitness clubs."

### 3. Enough available rooms for tourists

In this sentence, the word order is out of order. The word, "enough" is our target for this discussion. If you want to use it as an adjective in this sentence and I'm assuming you do, it should be placed before "rooms" to read, "Enough rooms available for tourists." In this role, the word talks about sufficient quantity as an adjective. The versatile little word "enough" can wear many masks. It can be used as a noun as in, "Enough is enough." Or as an adverb, for example, "He has worked enough." So, the word is at your command. Use it until you have had enough.

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

# Personal effects of preservation

By Derrick Sobodash

Translators of Chinese to English are very fortunate to be going between two languages with similar sentence orderings -- at least most of the time. Sure there are always exceptions, but the similarities are far greater than those between English and Altaic-family languages or Japanese.

This week's wreckage is another case of shaking up a sentence that already had a one-to-one equivalent in English.

This sign reads, "Please good your personal effects of preservation." How it ended up this way is a real mystery. It's like they put all the characters in a Boggle

box, shoot it up, and wrote each out in the new order. More shocking is that the writer attempts to use "good" as a verb. While English may have the word "goods," it is certainly not used as a conjugation for "he goods things."

The second word, baoguan, does not mean "preserve" so much as it means "to take care of" or "to look after." The hao on the end just means to do it, or do it well. Also, "personal effects" is a very odd choice of translation for geren wupin. It may have been cute and fit the setting when Johnny Depp said it in Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean, but in 2008 the phrase



"belongings" is much more standard.

Following the original order of the Chinese text, the translation comes out as "Please look after your belongings."





## Scene 1

**Kangaroo follows Horton wanting to teach him a lesson**

**Horton:** There's a tiny person on that speck and needs my help.

**Kangaroo:** Absurd. There aren't people that small.

**Horton:** Whoa, maybe they aren't small. Maybe ... We're big.

**Kangaroo:** Horton!

**Horton:** No! Really, think about it. What if there is someone way out there, looking down on our world right now. And to them, we are the specks. And then this someone else comes along<sup>(1)</sup>, he says, "Oh, there can't be people that small." And the first guy would say, "Are you calling me a liar?"

And the second guy would say, "If the shoe fits, wear it<sup>(2)</sup>, and the fists are flyin', and the first guy picks up a brick, and you might wanna zip up<sup>(3)</sup> the pouch<sup>(4)</sup> for this next part. Alright, Fat boy! You want some of this ...

**Kangaroo:** Horton? There is nothing on that speck.

**Horton:** But I heard.

**Kangaroo:** Did you? Really? Oh my! Then how come I don't hear anything.

**Horton:** Well ...

**Kangaroo:** If you can't see, hear or feel something, it doesn't exist. And believing in tiny imaginary people is just not something we do or tolerate here in the jungle of Nool.

**Horton:** Really? If I verified it and I really tried, I can find somebody who will believe what I'm saying.

**Kangaroo:** You will do nothing of the sort. You will not breathe a word<sup>(5)</sup> of this lie to anyone else especially the children. I do not want you poisoning their minds with this nonsense. Our community has standards, Horton. If you wanna remain a part of that, I recommend you follow them. Have a nice day.

**Horton:** Alright then! I'll ah ... take that under advisement. Certainly appreciate your input.

## Vocabulary

**1 Come along:** an invitation to follow along.

**2 If the shoe fits, wear it:** If something belongs or pertains to you, accept it.

**3 Zip up:** close with a zipper.

**4 Pouch:** a pocket of skin in the lower half of the body, in which marsupial animals (like kangaroos) carry their young.

**5 Breathe a word:** to not tell people a secret.

**6 Let someone down:** to disappoint someone, usually by not doing something.

**7 Legacy:** something handed down to a successor.

**8 Ordinance:** an authoritative



command or order.

**9 Go nuts:** to go crazy.

**10 Go bananas:** to lose control, become very angry.

**11 Kick out:** to throw out; dismiss.

**12 Good call:** reasonable idea.

(By Zheng Lu)

## Scene 2:

**In the Hall of the Mayor's house**

**The Mayor of Whoville:** Son! Hey!

**Narrator:** And why didn't he speak? Well I think he was frightened if he did, he might let down<sup>(6)</sup> his dad.

The Mayor of Whoville: You know what's awesome? This is awesome! Just look at the men and the women hanging on these walls. You, my boy, are part of the family legacy<sup>(7)</sup> that spans centuries. You know what? Your grandfather was Mayor of Whoville. And, your great grandmother, that's right. All the way down to your great, great, great, great, not so great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great ... Great! Grandfather! Someday I hope to join them. Be one of the Greats. I tell you JoJo there is nothing like being Mayor. I get to sign resolutions: approve ordinances<sup>(8)</sup>, submit budgets. And in the edible parade, I'm the one sitting on top of the giant meatball. Someday, that can be you too, JoJo.

## Movie of the week

How mighty is the power of the promise? And what efforts will you make to keep the promise you made? Horton (voiced by Jim Carrey), an enthusiastic elephant in the jungle, sets out on an adventure to keep his promise of bringing the speck of dust which is home to the Whos, to a safe place. His promise brings him much trouble and torment from his neighbors, who refuse to believe that anything could survive on the speck. Still, Horton stands by the motto that, "After all, a person is a person, no matter how small." Isn't the earth we live on just like a speck in the endless universe? Since we are all Whos, the way we treat a dust might be the way someone else treats us.

## Synopsis:

The movie is about an imaginative elephant who hears a cry for help coming from a tiny speck of dust floating through the air. Suspecting there may be life on that speck and despite a surrounding community which thinks he has lost his mind, Horton is determined to help and protect the Whos at all costs.



# Horton hears a who

(2008)

## Scene 3:

**Morton comes to inform Horton of the danger**

**Horton:** Oh-O. Hang on Mr. Mayor. I may have to put up a flight. A frightened elephant can be very dangerous. Alright! You've called down the thunder, buddy! You hungry for trouble? Well, I'm the all-you-can-eat salad bar! Get ready to fight!

**Morton:** I hate running.

**Horton:** Morton! Don't do that!

**Morton:** Horton! Horton? Don't ... there you are. We got trouble. Wait, stay, wait. Can you hear that? No, I'm here. OK, listen. No, go. Kangaroo has gone nuts<sup>(9)</sup>, bananas<sup>(10)</sup>. She's telling everyone that you should be kicked out<sup>(11)</sup> of Nool.

**Horton:** She said that? I thought we were friends.

**Morton:** Where is she? She's gone to Vlad's.

**Horton:** Vlad. Vlad. I know two Vlands. Is it the bad Vlad or the bunny Vlad that makes the Cookies?

**Morton:** Yeah, Horton. She's sending you a bunny with cookies. I think we can assume it's the bad Vlad.

**Horton:** Yeah, that's a good call<sup>(12)</sup>.

**Morton:** So, unless you're cool with giant razor sharp claws ripping the flesh off your body, I'd get rid of the clover.

**Horton:** I can't. I promised the Mayor. I meant what I said. I said what I meant. And an elephant's faithful 100 percent.

**Morton:** Please, for me, just this once, be faithful 99 percent of the time. I've never gone 99 percent on anything. I think I'm awesome. So come on.

**Horton:** I meant what I said and I said what I meant.